



ACTING TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION
IN THE CONTEXT OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

- **Illustrated stories of victims of exploitation**
- **Pathways for combating human trafficking**



Exploitation in the workplace | Domestic slavery | Forced criminality | Forced begging | Sexual exploitation

ACCORDING TO A NATIONAL SURVEY* CONDUCTED WITH 69 ASSOCIATIONS IN FRANCE IN 2022
CONCERNING 2,675 VICTIMS BEING SUPPORTED BY THEM

Of which:



76%

**Sexual
exploitation**



15%

**Exploitation
in the workplace**



7%

**Forced
to commit
crimes**



2%

**Forced
begging**

1% other forms of exploitation

However, there are in reality many more victims as they are difficult to identify: men and women, adults and children, all forms of trafficking combined. These people are kept subjugated, controlled by those exploiting them and by organised networks, subject to ill-treatment and denied access to their rights.

**Survey conducted by the SSMSI (France's Ministerial Department of Internal Security Statistics) and MIPROF (Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings).*

SUMMARY

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WHY RAISE AWARENESS

REGARDING THE RISKS OF EXPLOITATION

AND TRAFFICKING ON THE SIDELINES

OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS?

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PREVENTING ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING AND SUPPORTING VICTIMS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A CRIMINAL PHENOMENON ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE.

The vulnerability and poverty of victims (who do not always view themselves as such), as well as the invisible nature of the phenomenon which is spreading, in particular via the Internet, makes fighting human trafficking difficult. Prevention is therefore all the more important.

Human trafficking causes significant trauma to victims who are frequently exposed to threats and physical and verbal aggression, deprived of their fundamental rights and needs. Humiliated and kept under control, they are kept subjugated through isolation strategies.

Trafficking also has destructive effects on society as a whole as it leads to poverty and creates pockets of vulnerability and poverty.

Finally, it undermines the fundamental values that form the basis for our social contract (protection of the dignity and integrity of the individual, access to education and the prohibition of child labour, etc.).

For this reason, the collective “Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains” (or “Combating human trafficking together”) and its member associations believe it vital to think now about an effective policy to combat this phenomenon, in particular in preparation for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games which risk exacerbating it; and also, more widely, in the context of major sporting events.

All forms of exploitation are in fact amplified during major events of this kind. However, these scourges of exploitation and trafficking exist within society. We must therefore remain vigilant and combat them on a daily basis.

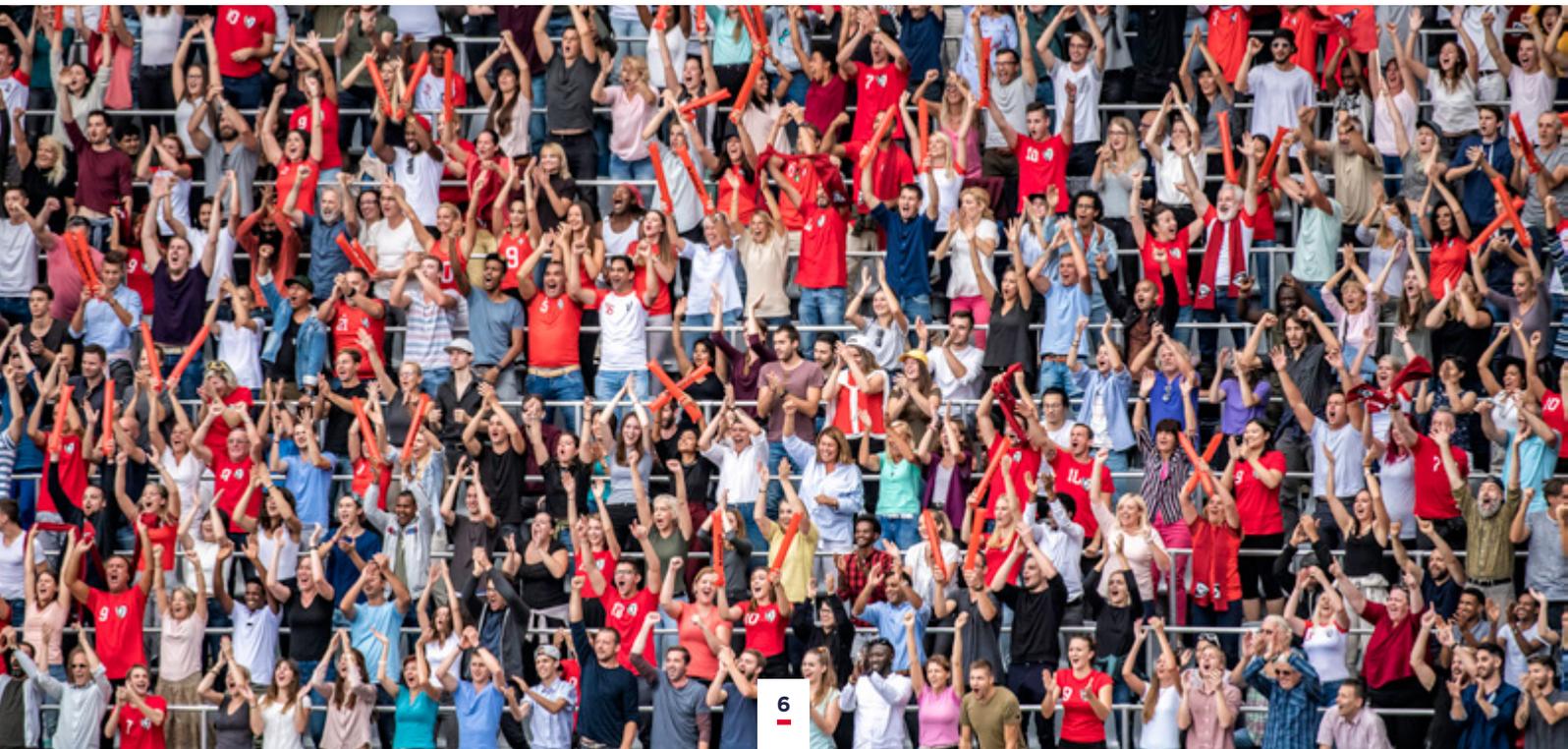
This document entitled “Acting to prevent exploitation in the context of major sporting events” is therefore aimed at ensuring that all those who come into contact with potential victims are well-informed and ready to act, whether they are police officers or working in the courts, healthcare system, housing/accommodation or employment sectors, in institutions or in civil society, as professionals or as volunteers.

THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES, AN EVENT WITH MAJOR SOCIAL AMBITIONS ORGANISED IN FRANCE

THE PARIS OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES IN 2024 REPRESENT THE ONLY GENUINELY GLOBAL, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COMPETITION.

With over 200 countries taking part in more than 400 events between the winter and summer Games, the Olympics are the only place in which the world comes together to compete, find inspiration and be together.

The symbols and values which have marked the history of sport and of humanity since 1896 until the present day inspire unity, sharing and peace. The fundamental values which underlie the Olympics are friendship, respect and excellence. Those of the Paralympics are determination, equality, inspiration and courage.



THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES: AN EVENT WITH SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL AMBITIONS

Experiencing extraordinary things thanks to the emotions inspired by sport, living better thanks to practising sport, living together and creating greater cohesion around the values shared by sport - this is the vision that the organisers of the Olympic Games are offering all generations, in all places, by placing sport at the heart of their lives.

By taking inspiration from the values of sport and by the way athletes are able to surpass themselves, the Games are meant to be a peaceful and universal celebration of coming together, where every country meets the whole world... spectacular Games, bringing sport to unexpected places, taking the party to the very heart of towns and cities, by building bridges with culture and education.

And the 2024 Games aim to present the whole of France with a new model to inspire future generations and leave a positive legacy for individuals and society. Everyone is involved: sporting movements, public stakeholders and local authorities, the general public and private partners.

Paris 2024 should be a project that continues long after the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is an economic, ecological and social opportunity for the whole of society which will be able to benefit from the legacy left behind by the Games.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION

Sporting and cultural events help spread positive values. In bringing people together, they are a moment of celebration for most participants.

But some particularly vulnerable people are not able to come to the party. Exploited or relegated to the margins, they may be victims of trafficking in a variety of forms. Sportsmen and sportswomen are also sometimes the victims of trafficking.



MAJOR SPORTING AND CULTURAL EVENTS

SHOULD BE A TIME FOR CELEBRATION FOR EVERYBODY

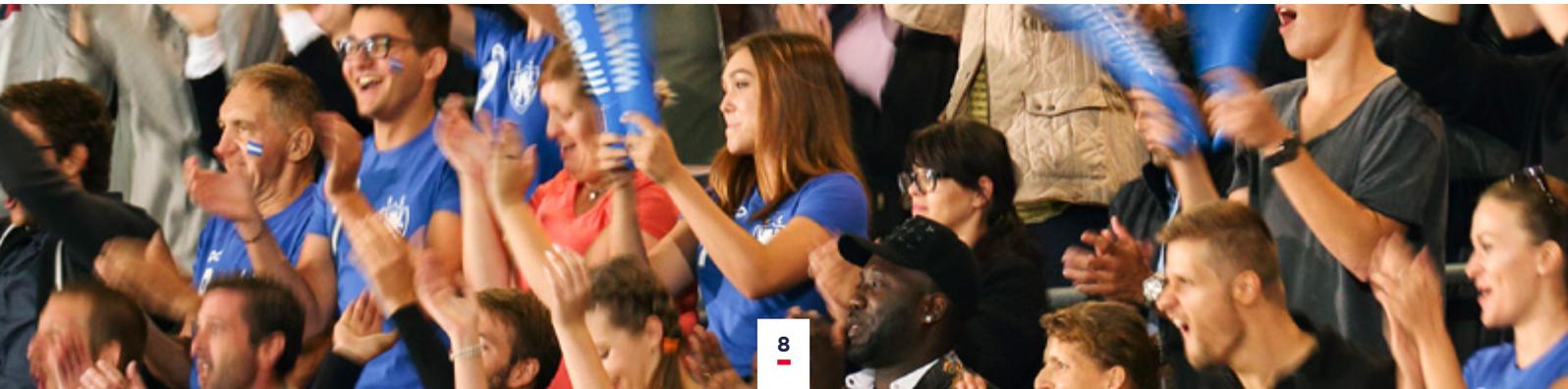
The Collective “Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains” coordinated by Secours Catholique - Caritas France, with 28 member associations and their networks bringing together civil society organisations in France and abroad, raises awareness among the general public and takes action with institutions in order to prevent exploitation in all of its forms, impacting both child and adult victims:

- **Sexual exploitation (including via the Internet),**
- **Exploitation in the workplace (personal services, construction, catering, transport, etc.)**
- **Domestic slavery,**
- **Coercion into crime,**
- **Forced into begging...**

Because we want all major sporting events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games in France, to be a celebration for all, we are working to prevent all forms of exploitation and human trafficking through an awareness-raising campaign.

Our approach is both national and international as the event is broadcast throughout France and in many countries, on television, via the internet and on social media...

The approach is being supported by France's national consultative human rights commission, an independent national body which reports on human trafficking, and the Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (MIPROF), national coordinator on human trafficking.



OUR GOALS

- ➔ To promote the role of sport as a major driver in terms of individual wellbeing and insertion.
- ➔ To provide information on what human trafficking and exploitation in all its forms covers in the modern world.
- ➔ To alert the general public and the relevant professionals to the fact that major sporting events are unfortunately factors and occasions for the exploitation of individuals.
- ➔ To act and identify potential victims.
- ➔ To build partnerships with those who wish to combat human trafficking.
- ➔ To empower the organisers of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, corporates and private partners - in particular, online platforms (food, transport, accommodation) which may be used by traffickers.
- ➔ To insist on the fact that all public and private stakeholders and all members of civil society have responsibilities.
- ➔ To encourage institutions to act in order to avoid, as far as possible, human exploitation and trafficking in the context of major sporting events and beyond.

IMAGES TO SUPPORT **AWARENESS-RAISING** IN RELATION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

**WE ALL
WANT IT
TO BE FUN!**

MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS INCREASE
THE RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Read the victims' stories

IGOR, 32 YEARS OLD
HANDBALL FAN
AND EXPLOITED AT WORK

MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS INCREASE
THE RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Read the victims' stories

ROZA, 30 YEARS OLD
BOXING FAN
AND DOMESTIC SLAVE

MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS INCREASE
THE RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Read the victims' stories

LIFE STORIES OF VICTIMS

OF EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IN ALL OF ITS FORMS



Every day, we come across people are being exploited: the celebrations could however make us forget about this. Let's seize the opportunity provided by sporting events (before, during and after) in order to raise awareness about this issue.

9 LIFE STORIES OF VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING PROVIDE US WITH DIFFERENT REALITIES AND KEYS TO HELP UNDERSTAND AND TAKE ACTION



AMARA - p14
Exploited in the workplace



RITA - p18
Domestic slave



KIM - p20
Domestic slave



HAMZA - p24
Forced into stealing



ALI - p26
Forced into drug dealing



LANA - p30
Forced into begging



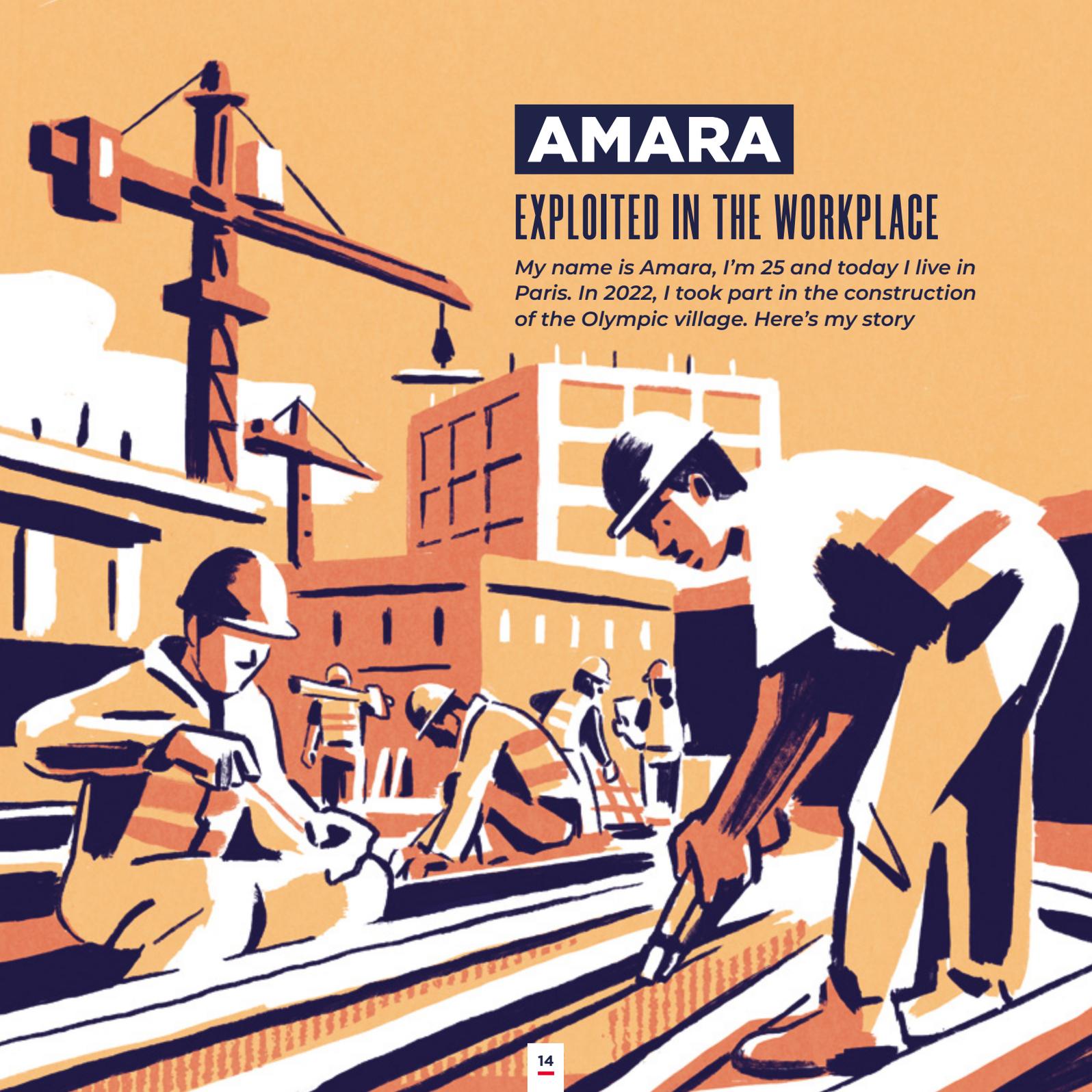
CHRISTINA - p34
Forced into selling her body



LISE - p38
Victim of sexual exploitation



ANGEL - p40
Victim of sexual exploitation



AMARA

EXPLOITED IN THE WORKPLACE

My name is Amara, I'm 25 and today I live in Paris. In 2022, I took part in the construction of the Olympic village. Here's my story

I was just a child when my mum died. So, I had to leave school and go and live with my aunt. But she was spiteful and violent. When I was 12, I tried to find a way out and got a job in a garage. But, 9 years later, my boss sold the business. So there I was, without a job, and my aunt, who did not support this situation, kicked me out.

Then I decided to leave Mali. I managed to survive on odd-jobs but I was living in extreme poverty. Next, I tried my luck in Libya. There, I fell into the hands of criminals who tortured me before letting me go. So I decided to flee to Europe. Crossing the Mediterranean was a nightmare, but I made it alive to Paris where I found a place to sleep in a squat. This was in June 2019.

All around me, people were saying that I could find work by offering my services outside professional hardware and supplies stores. This was how I met my boss, a tradesman aged about 50 who was specialised in masonry. He promised to sort out my residency documents and give me a permanent contract on the minimum wage.

During the first months, I worked for about 8 hours each day, on various sites, including on the construction of the future Olympic village. I didn't have a contract or any payslips.

Very occasionally, I was paid some cash but my employer promised me that he was paying me a salary each month, to an account in my name, and that I would have access to this account once I had my documents.

Then, my boss suggested I should live in a room located in his workshop. From this moment, my living conditions changed drastically. I was working 13 hours a day and then on weekends too. There was never any rest. My life was limited to the sites and the workshop. At work, my boss was constantly pressuring me. I didn't even have the right to get water without his authorisation! And I still didn't have any documents. I was scared that I would be sent back to my country if I spoke to the police or that I would end up in the street. So I had to put up with the situation and just survive.

Then I had an accident. In February 2023, my employer dropped a block of concrete which tore off 3 of my fingers and broke bones in my foot. While I was being treated in hospital, I met someone from social services. She was concerned about my living conditions and alerted a specialist association which got in contact with me and provided me with support to help me out of this situation.

"I was scared that I would be sent back to my country if I spoke to the police."

KEY POINTS

Human trafficking for exploitation in the workplace, commonly known as modern slavery, involves vulnerable individuals who are subjected to physical and psychological force in order to provide underpaid or unpaid work, deprived of their freedom and whose housing and working conditions violate human dignity. In these situations, we observe elements such as: confiscated passports and identity documents, interruption of family connections and cultural isolation.

As in Amara's case, exploitation of this kind can take place within a company or business. This is then described as "forced labour" or "exploitation in the workplace".



WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Victims can be of any age and nationality. However, they usually have multiple difficulties which render them vulnerable. For example, they may not speak French, not be able to read, not know their rights in France or they may have a physical or mental disability.

In cases of exploitation within companies and depending on the economic sector, victims tend in their majority to be men, in contrast for example to cases of exploitation in a domestic context where most victims are women.

HOW CAN THEY BE IDENTIFIED?

It is very difficult to identify these victims who are rendered invisible by those exploiting them. However, we can all be vigilant and put discreet questions to workers whose working conditions (lack of any safety equipment, concerning physical condition, etc.) attract our attention. We can all also take the time to listen carefully, for example, to someone who is in the street because they have had to flee a place of exploitation.

It is always important to turn to specialist associations who will be able to advise you on how to act without putting yourself in danger. You are strongly discouraged from confronting any employer you suspect of being guilty of exploitation.



WHY DOES THIS SITUATION OCCUR ON THE SIDELINES OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS?

In preparation for major sporting events, the construction of the host infrastructure generally requires the use of one or even multiple levels of subcontracting. During the event, there is a very high demand for manpower. All this can have an impact on the phenomenon of human trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in the workplace.

For example, the impossibility of falling behind schedule may encourage a subcontracting company to be less vigilant when it comes to the working conditions imposed on workers hired by its subcontractors in order to ensure that infrastructure is completed on time.

During the event itself, the very temporary demand for insecure jobs (security, cleaning, etc.) may encourage the massive and undeclared recruitment of vulnerable workers, so as to employ them for a brief period of time and in an intensive way only, often with difficult working hours.



RITA DOMESTIC SLAVE

My name is Rita and I'm from Manila in the Philippines. I left my home and travelled far away in order to work and support my family. But I never imagined that I'd end up in Paris. Here's my story.



When I was 32, I was living in the Philippines with my two children, working a series of different jobs. We lived in very harsh conditions and I had to help my parents make ends meet. That was when I saw an ad published by an agency on the Internet which offered training as a maid to go and work abroad. It looked interesting in financial terms and all of the costs were covered. So I applied and, a few months later, I left all alone for Saudi Arabia.

Upon arrival in Riyadh, I met my employers. They were immensely rich and from a large family. They immediately confiscated my passport. There, I had to look after an aunt who was severely disabled and also help my colleagues with the housework, the cooking, serving at table and looking after the children...

My working conditions were gruelling. My days started at 5 a.m. and ended at around 11 p.m. and I slept at the foot of my patient's bed. I never had a day off and I had to insist in order to be paid. In Riyadh, I had no contacts outside the home because I was not allowed out by myself, it's the law.

To start with, I put up with the situation and hung on. But after two years, I wanted to go back to the Philippines. Only my employer still has my passport. He threatened to hand me over to the police if I tried to leave. I felt trapped and I was missing my children.

Then, my employers decided to travel to Paris for a sports event. They took me with them and we left with their three children and their baby aged just three months.

In Paris, we stayed in a luxury suite. I slept in the drawing room, on the sofa, next to the crib. I looked after the baby all the time and I had to accompany the family during all of their activities. I was exhausted by the visits and was not given proper meals by my employers. I did the housework and, when the family went out to watch the matches, I was shut in alone with the baby. I was absolutely exhausted.

So, when, one day, my employers left the keys in the room by mistake, I seized the opportunity and ran away. After one night in the street, I decided to ask a passerby for help. She took me along to the offices of a specialist association. They helped me find somewhere to stay, to file a complaint and find a decent job here, in Paris.

“My days started at 5 a.m. and ended at around 11 p.m.”





KIM DOMESTIC SLAVE

*My name is Kim, I'm Filipino.
Today, I live in a flat in a suburb outside Paris
with my wife and two children.
Here's my story since I came to France.*

When I left my home country 12 years ago, it was above all to find work in France to support my family. On arriving in Paris, I answered an ad posted by a couple, looking to employ a butler. They were ready to hire me. They asked for my passport to sort out my situation and draw up a contract for me. I agreed and, without waiting, started work.

My employers were very wealthy. They were aged about 50 and lived in a nice area of Paris, in a very luxurious apartment. He was a doctor and had his own practice. She managed a fashion boutique in the Les Halles district.

To begin with, my task was essentially that of home help. I had to keep the apartment clean and tidy, do the cooking and the shopping and serve at table when they had guests. All that for a tiny salary. I was given accommodation in a very cramped room, but the situation was bearable. I managed to send part of the money back home to my family.

But, as time went by, the situation got worse and worse. I now had to do the cleaning at the doctor's surgery as well as in the apartments that my employers rented out to tourists. During the holidays, I was responsible for running their holiday home in the south of France. Despite the additional workload, my salary remained the same and was still tiny. There was never any rest.

My employers threw endless receptions, inviting loads of guests, which mean I had to work right through the night. And, the following day, I was up at the crack of dawn to clean up the house. It was just endless.

“My employers kept my passport and there was no news regarding the legalisation of my status.”

In addition, my employers had kept my passport and there was no news regarding the legalisation of my status. Without documents, there was nothing I could do. I was far too afraid of the police to go and talk to them about my situation.

I kept going like this for several years. Up until the day when, exhausted, I refused to go to the family's holiday home for the weekend. I asked for my employment conditions and my salary to be reviewed. My employers were outraged by my requests. Their reaction was extremely violent and humiliating for me.

The altercation reached a point of no return. I felt that I was in danger. So I alerted an association which helps victims of trafficking which supported with asserting my rights before the courts, finding a new job and bringing my family over.



KEY POINTS

Human trafficking for exploitation in the workplace, commonly known as modern slavery, involves vulnerable individuals who are subjected to physical and psychological force in order to provide underpaid or unpaid work, deprived of their freedom and whose housing and working conditions violate human dignity. In these situations, we observe elements such as: confiscated passports and identity documents, interruption of family connections and cultural isolation. As for Rita and Kim, this kind of exploitation can happen in a domestic context, i.e. within a family and a private home. This is then described as “domestic servitude or slavery” or “domestic exploitation”.



WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Victims can be of any age and nationality. However, they usually have multiple difficulties which render them vulnerable. For example, they may not speak French, not be able to read, not know their rights in France or they may suffer from a physical or mental disability. In cases of domestic exploitation, victims tend to be women, sometimes still underage, in contrast for example to cases of exploitation in the workplace where most victims are men.



HOW CAN THEY BE IDENTIFIED?

It is very difficult to identify these victims who are rendered invisible by those exploiting them. However, we can all be vigilant and put discreet questions to workers whose working conditions (lack of any safety equipment, worrying physical condition, etc.) attract our attention. We can all also take the time to listen carefully, for example, to someone who is in the street because they have had to flee a place of exploitation. It is always important to turn to specialist associations who will be able to advise you on how to act without putting yourself in danger. You are strongly discouraged from confronting any employer you suspect of being guilty of exploitation!



WHY DOES THIS SITUATION OCCUR ON THE SIDELINES OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS?

During major sporting events, the significant influx of tourists and diplomatic parties can increase the risk of families employing people in unfit conditions coming to France with such individuals without bringing their working conditions into line with French standards.

Another factor that can lead to an increase in the number of cases is the strong demand for short-term property lets, for example, through platforms used to rent accommodation by and to private individuals. People who are already being exploited in private homes or who have been recruited for this special purpose can then be forced to clean these rental properties in addition to working in the normal home of the employers.



HAMZA FORCED INTO STEALING

*My name is Hamza, I'm 21. I am Moroccan.
Eight years ago, I left my home country to prove
to my family that I could be a success abroad.
In reality, nothing went as I'd planned.*



When I was 13, like my friends in my neighbourhood, I left Morocco for Spain in hope of a better and easier life. First of all, I went to Ceuta, a Spanish enclave in North Africa, where I lived in the street. To get across the Mediterranean, I hid under a lorry which was boarding a ship heading for the south of the Iberian peninsula.

Once I arrived, I was taken to a hostel and looked after, and I met up with other young Moroccan men and boys in the same situation as me. Some of them told me about Barbès, a district in Paris where young people like us could easily make money before coming back to Spain to get their documents. The plan seemed safe.

So, I got on a train to Paris and went to Barbès. That was where I met Walid. He came from the same town as me and he invited me to his squat which he shared with other young men. The next day, he introduced me to some Algerians who were older than us. They welcomed me like a younger brother and said they were going to protect me and help me find my way. But for this, I had to bring them jewellery. In exchange, they promised they would give me enough money to live, to buy clothes and even to send to my family back home.

As I didn't know how to go about this, they sent me to the Trocadero and explained to me how to steal jewellery from tourists.

“They put pressure on me to bring in more and more jewellery.”

So as I wouldn't be scared, they gave me a drug which they called “*Madame courage*”. Everyone was taking it. And, it was true: I wasn't afraid of the crowd or of the police.

The attitude of the older guys changed quickly. I had to pay now to get “*Madame courage*” and they put pressure on me to bring in more and more jewellery. They would threaten me. Once, some of them got together to beat me up. I was afraid and I was more and more dependent on the drugs, to steal, sleep, to stop the pain... So I worked day and night to get more money... It was a vicious circle. I didn't see how I could break out of it... One night, in desperation, I tried to kill myself, right there in the street.

A passerby called the emergency services and I was taken to hospital. I was treated by a psychologist and I told him everything. He put me in contact with a specialist association which helped me get my papers, find a place in a hostel and start going to school.



ALI

FORCED INTOO DRUG DEALING

My name is Ali, I'm 18 and I was born in Oran into a relatively poor family. At 16, I came to France hoping to find a better future. But what awaited me was very different.



As a teenager, there were no prospects for me in terms of studying or working. Everyone says that it's easy to find work in the Barbès district. So, I decided to head to Paris. With the little money I had, I paid people traffickers to get me across the Mediterranean. When it was time to embark, I was scared. The boat was small and we were crammed in, but we made it, safe and sound, to Almeria in Spain.

Once I got to Paris, I had no money left but I found some Algerians from Oran and I met Malik. He said that he could help me. And, in actual fact, he quickly found me a place in a one-room flat measuring 30 m² with four others and a job on the market.

I worked hard but didn't earn enough to pay my rent. I started to have problems with the landlord. To get more money, Malik suggested I could sell cigarettes. This worked pretty well, except when the police would get involved and confiscate the cigarettes. When that happened, I couldn't repay Malik and I started getting into debt.

One day, he told me that I owed him more than 1,000€. I would never be able to pay off this kind of amount. Malik told me that the best solution to settle my debt was to sell hashish and prescription drugs. It was more risky than selling cigarettes. Malik provided me with Rivotril so I wasn't so afraid. It became impossible for me to deal without pills or to sleep without Lyrica.

“Malik told me I had to sell hashish in order to pay off my debts.”

My goal each day was to be able to pay for my pills. I couldn't work properly any more and Malik became aggressive because I wasn't bringing in enough money for him. One night, in a squat, he beat me up in front of everyone. He said that, the next time, his mate Aziz would take care of me, that he would rape me and sent the video back home. I would kill myself if that happened.

I want to find a way out but there's no hope. Sometimes I would find a place in a hostel, but I ran off each time to find pills and keep dealing because I still owed money to Malik.

Until the day when I met a support worker in the street. He told me that his association could protect me and I ended up by trusting him. I was then placed in a centre located far from Paris where I got support to get clean and rejoin society.



KEY POINTS

Being coerced into crime is a form of human trafficking. It consists of forcing an individual to commit crimes and offences in order to take the profits obtained. The crimes involved vary: pick-pocketing, stealing by snatching or at cash points, burglaries, sale of prescription drugs, cigarettes or stolen goods, charity scams...



WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Young people of different nationalities (11 detected in 2021) are coerced into committing crimes. While there is no one single profile for victims, they have characteristics in common. They are mainly foreign and male, underage or young adults, sleeping rough or without a permanent address, either because they are unaccompanied minors or because they live solely within their own families or communities. They endure physical, psychological and/or sexual violence, demonstrate numerous high-risk behaviours and are highly mobile, including cross-border.

However, many young French men and boys, working on behalf of drug dealers as look-outs, are also victims of human trafficking.

Many describe recruitment and control methods that are similar to what is observed in relation to young non-French nationals.

The victim can be exploited by family members, which, in addition to facilitating recruitment, only increases the control exercised over them. He or she can also be exploited by organised crime groups which use violence and drugs to maintain control.



HOW CAN THEY BE IDENTIFIED?

The fact that these young people are unaware that they are victims but claim to be delinquents, their suspicion of institutions and the conflicts of loyalty they experience make this phenomenon difficult to grasp.

Going out into the street to meet with children and young people to create a relationship based on trust is the vital first stage in finding victims, understanding their difficulties and ways of life and accompanying them towards protection. The profiles of those young people being exploited are varied and each situation of trafficking is unique. A combination of factors makes it possible to raise the alert and identify a potential victim.

WHY DOES THIS SITUATION OCCUR ON THE SIDELINES OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS?

This form of exploitation is particularly lucrative for those doing the exploiting. It allows them to have the exploited victims bear all the risk of criminal charges, telling them that the fact that they are minors means there is less risk of prosecution.

During major sporting events, the large number of tourists makes an ideal target for criminal groups who exploit minors to commit crimes.

Criminal organisations will be tempted to recruit massive numbers of new victims from among vulnerable minors in order to seize this opportunity.



LANA

“MARRIED” AT 13 AND FORCED INTO BEGGING

*My name is Lana and I'm 15.
I left Romania for France when I was 13.
Here's my story.*



I was just a teenager when my parents decided to marry me off to Marius. He was 18 and living in France, in a family well-known for having done well. We were finding it hard to survive and this was a good prospect for us.

But, once in France, I found out that Marius lived in a shantytown, known as the “*Platz*”, in very bad conditions. Within the community, his family was feared and hated. The father seemed to be the boss here and took rent off all the families in the shantytown. Everyone was afraid of him.

As soon as I arrived, I was told that I had to look after the youngest children, the house, and beg in the street to make money. All this to repay the debt that I owed to my in-laws for the wedding. I tried to honour my parents, so I worked from morning until night, non-stop. But all the money was going to Marius' father. When I didn't bring enough home, he was violent with me, insulting me and hitting me.

My situation became even more complicated when Marius decided we should have a baby. He became aggressive and forced me to sleep with him. I ended up by getting pregnant. But my father-in-law still forced me to work. I had pains in the back, the stomach... But my in-laws refused to allow me to see a doctor. I wanted to run away. Only I had nowhere to go and I was scared of being rejected.

“When I didn't bring enough home, he was violent with me, insulting me and hitting me.”

By the end of my pregnancy, I was exhausted. One day, I fainted and woke up in hospital. The doctor explained to me that I had to have a caesarian. After the operation, I returned to the *Platz* and immediately had to get back to work, and look after my baby.

Until the day the police came to kick us out of the shantytown. Everyone ran for it except for me, I stayed put with my baby. I was afraid and I had had enough of that life. A policeman came to see me and I told him everything. I was very surprised when he explained to me that I could be protected by the courts and that associations could help me change my life. I

agreed and, after having filed a complaint, I was placed in a hostel and enrolled in a school. It's hard to rebuild your life but at least I am safe now, and surrounded by people who are helping me to move forward.



KEY POINTS

Forcing people to beg is a form of human trafficking whose purpose is to take the money obtained by the person being forced to beg. Victims are generally young, or even very young children, originally from Romania. They are often in France with their families or in-laws. An extremely high degree of insecurity and a life that is exclusively within the family or the community are characteristics shared by all victims.



WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

The exploitation is almost always within the family: the perpetrators are the parents, family members, parents-in-law or the spouse. Recruitment is therefore facilitated by this close family relationship which only reinforces the stranglehold exercised over victims.

Physical and psychological violence is often used to maintain this stranglehold and, in the context of exploitation by a spouse or partner, sexual violence can also take place.

The manipulation of certain community-based practices such as marriages with the payment of dowries or blackmail linked to children are also observed.

In certain cases, organised crime groups from Romania send poor families or children to France and demand the repayment of very substantial debts. In this case, the members of the family perpetrating the exploitation are also in turn exploited.

Children often fail to realise the seriousness of their situation which can appear to them to be natural: they think that they are helping out their families, taking part in the family business, and are completely unaware of the fact that they are victims.

Recently, young people from Sub-Saharan Africa and forced into begging have been identified, but there is still not much known about this type of exploitation and the criminal networks involved.



HOW CAN THEY BE IDENTIFIED?

As in the case of minors coerced into committing crimes, only outreach work in the streets makes it possible to make contact with these children, understand the entire complexity of their situation and start to build the trust which is primordial for any potential support work.

WHY DOES THIS SITUATION OCCUR ON THE SIDELINES OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS?

Major sporting events provide opportunities for perpetrators of trafficking who see the massive influx of tourists as a means of increasing their income. Criminal groups seize these occasions to develop their exploitation systems and recruit new victims from among those most vulnerable.



CHRISTINA

FORCED INTO SELLING HER BODY

My name is Christina, I'm 28 now and I live in Paris. I came to France to earn a bit of money in order to finish my Master's degree in chemistry. But nothing worked out as I'd planned.



In 2020, I was living in Moldova. I was studying and, at the same time, working for a modelling agency. A French photographer, Christophe, found me through this agency and contacted me via the Internet, asking me to come to France and pose for him.

He promised to take care of everything: pay for my plane ticket, find me somewhere to live and a visa, give me work. This proposal was tempting. It offered me a way of paying to complete my studies. So I agreed. Christophe kept his word and organised my trip and arrival in Paris perfectly.

For two years, my job consisted of posing for erotic photos. I made the most of it and I earned a bit of money and thought I was in a position to impose my conditions on clients.

But my situation became more complicated when Christophe suggested that I should become an escort girl and have sex for money with some of his high-profile contacts. He tried to convince me, saying that I would be rubbing shoulders with high society and gaining access to a luxury lifestyle. When I refused, he became more insistent and threatened to circulate photos of me on the Internet, to destroy my career... I was afraid of losing everything and I ended up agreeing to what he wanted.

“When I refused to have sex for money, he threatened me.”

Christophe quickly started to control my life. He created a website in my name to show me off and attract new clients. I had to always be at his disposal. He hassled me, sending me messages day and night to give me appointments with clients and instructions as to what to wear and how to behave...

The clients were men who were much older than me, persuaded that they were doing me a favour. They showed me off like a trophy, just another one of their possessions.

After three years of this life, I was completely lost. I wanted it all to stop, but Christophe put pressure on me. After an argument one night, he threw me out onto the street. That was when I decided to contact an association to help me find a way out of this situation.



KEY POINTS

According to Article 225-4-1 of the French Criminal Code, the trafficking of human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation is “the act, in exchange for remuneration or for any other advantage or promise of remuneration, of recruiting, transporting, transferring, providing accommodation for or hosting an individual in order to place him or her at the disposal of the trafficker or of a third party in order to permit the perpetration against such individual of the offences of procurement, aggression or sexual violence”.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Human trafficking in view of sexual exploitation is frequently characterised by a network of exploiters who have total control over their victims. While not all victims have the same profile, similarities can be found between many of them. They can be of any nationality.

Concerning foreigners, associations work mostly with people originating from Sub-Saharan Africa or South America, whose exploitation in the street is more visible. Women, young, from minority or marginalised backgrounds, foreign and showing multiple areas of weakness (in particular, financial) make up a large percentage of the victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Their life stories have generally been marked by violence and numerous types of trauma, which makes them vulnerable and inclined to trust people who are however ill-intentioned.

Trafficking networks reel them in by dangling false promises of a better future.

These hopes push victims to come to France, hoping to find a job allowing them to meet their own needs and those of their close friends and family back home.

During their migratory journey, if this is overland, victims are exposed to extraordinary levels of violence on the part of the traffickers, including acts of torture and rape.

Generally speaking, once the trafficking process has been put in place, the victim is deprived of all means of defending herself by the total psychological, physical, material and financial stranglehold of the traffickers.

Whether they are aware of the prostitution that awaits them or not, these victims cannot imagine the world of violence into which they are about to be plunged or the difficulty of getting out.

It should be noted that French nationals, both men and women, are also victims of trafficking. Trafficking is not defined by crossing an international border. It can occur within a home country.



HOW CAN THEY BE IDENTIFIED?

Victims can be difficult to identify as trafficking networks threaten victims and their families. Many victims are therefore afraid of disclosing their situation and claim instead that they are working as prostitutes on their own behalf. In addition, many victims are provided with accommodation or even kept locked up by the trafficking networks, with the threat of being kicked out on to the street if they refuse to obey orders, and this makes them additionally vulnerable and hard to identify. Vulnerabilities and signs of visible violence may make it possible to detect the situation in which a victim finds herself. In the case of doubts regarding a situation observed, refer to a specialist association rather than trying to act unilaterally.



WHY DOES THIS SITUATION OCCUR ON THE SIDELINES OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS?

Due to the massive influx of tourists attending major sporting events, searches and demand for paid-for sexual acts are high. In order to meet this demand, trafficking networks will be recruiting and bringing in new victims.



LISE

SEXUALLY EXPLOITED AT THE AGE OF 15

My name is Lise, I'm 19. I come from a normal background and grew up in a loving family. But, when I was 15, everything changed and I experienced things that have scarred me deeply. Here's my story.



I was in year 8 when I started at a new secondary school. I found it hard to fit in at this new place. So, when I was invited for the first time to a party at the home of a very popular classmate, I saw this as an opportunity to join the group.

That night, I had a few drinks even though I'd never drunk alcohol before. It was late at night and we started doing dares. These were pretty harmless to begin with, but they became more and more audacious. When my turn came, the challenge was to perform a sex act in front of everybody. I felt that I had to go along with it because of the pressure from the others. Only someone was filming it all. The next day, the video was being shared by the pupils at the school.

Everyone saw it and commented on it. I was so ashamed that I didn't tell anyone. I felt terribly alone. This was the point at which I started smoking cannabis. It helped me stop thinking about it.

That was when a 25-year-old man called Hugo got in contact with me via social media. He had seen the video and made flattering comments to me. He wanted us to meet up. He said that he could help me make money. For my part, I needed money to buy hashish, so I agreed. When we met for the first time, we drank and smoked together. I don't remember what happened next. But when I came to, I realised that he had raped me. I was in shock.

“He became violent when I wasn't bringing in enough money.”

He comforted me and told me that I was a diamond in the rough, that I could make a lot of money with him. This reassured me and I trusted him. That's how he brought me my first clients. He got me a place to meet with them and bought me nice clothes. In exchange, I gave him part of the money I made.

I lived like this for a year, up until the day that my parents noticed. They tried to put me in touch with a specialist association, but I didn't see any point. I was at last making a living and I wasn't asking anyone for anything. So, I ran away to Hugo. Only his attitude had changed. He became insistent, threatening and violent when, in his opinion, I wasn't bringing in enough money. The situation became dangerous and I wanted to cut all ties with him. So I went back home and asked me parents to move house. Then, I agreed to get help from the association with rebuilding and changing my life.



ANGEL

CHILD VICTIM OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

My name is Angel, I'm 25. I live in France, in a city.

I come from a very poor background.

The story I'm going to tell you starts when I was 15.



Everything began one evening, in one of the streets of my town. As I was going home, an older man came up to me. He seemed nice, took an interest in me, and we started talking. His name was Stéphane. After a little while, he invited me back to his house. I hesitated a bit. Then, he told me he could have me make lots of money. On condition that I agreed to certain sexual acts with him. I knew that other children did this in my neighbourhood. At the time, I was a bit anxious but I needed this money and I told myself it would be a good way of helping my family. So I agreed.

After a while, Stéphane introduced me to some of his acquaintances. They were all French, aged between 40 and 60. They all wanted the same thing. They knew very well that such acts were illegal, but that didn't bother them.

Some of them went as far as to help my parents financially, taking me to the swimming pool or the beach. They considered themselves to be benefactors, despite the horrific things they put me through, just because they gave us money.

This system was now our main means of survival. It was impossible for us to get by without this money.

*“At the time,
I was a bit anxious
but I needed
this money.”*

The police got involved in the case after arresting the clients for sexual violence against minors. They arrested my parents and accused them of acting as pimps. At that point, I was very scared that they would go to prison. At the hearing, when I was questioned as a victim, I tried above all to protect them! I told the police officers that my parents had no idea what was going on!

Today, I see this period of my life differently. Some people took advantage of me because I was only a child. They created and exercised real financial control over our family in order to get what they wanted.

It was difficult to get out of this system. A lot of people helped me do this, helped me rebuild my life and put an end to my suffering. But this took years.



KEY POINTS

The sexual exploitation of minors is a form of human trafficking. It corresponds to a situation in which an underage victim is forced either directly or indirectly to satisfy the sexual desires of a third party. “Human trafficking” has occurred if the victim being exploited is underage, his or her age being sufficient to establish the existence of constraint.



WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Victims of sexual exploitation helped by associations are young people aged under 18 and who can on occasion even be very young children. They are often young girls who for whatever reason have lost total or partial contact with their families, but these victims can be of any nationality and come from all socio-economic backgrounds. However, most of them have experienced a period of trauma which has made them particularly vulnerable to predators, such as harassment at school or an initial trauma of a sexual nature of some kind... making her or him an ideal prey for sexual predators.



HOW CAN THEY BE IDENTIFIED?

It is difficult to identify these victims whose exploitation most often uses digital interfaces. These enable rapid exploitation which can be multiplied and make the identification of the victims complicated.

In addition, underage victims of sexual exploitation are distinguished by the fact that they are frequently in denial of their exploitation situation. If a potential victim is identified, an attempt should be made to provide support even if it has not been possible to put the situation into words.

In the event of a meeting with a potential victim, each individual can try to identify a bundle of evidence raising suspicions regarding a situation of sexual exploitation (hyper-sexualisation, concerning physical condition, repeated running away, drug and digital addiction, etc.) In all cases, it is important to turn to specialist associations who will be able to advise you on how to steer or accompany the young person or people without putting yourself in danger, the child being most certainly linked to a trafficking networks.

WHY DOES THIS SITUATION OCCUR ON THE SIDELINES OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS?



On the sidelines of major sporting events, the significant influx of tourists increases the risk of the sexual exploitation of minors. The larger number of potential “clients” is an opportunity for perpetrators of exploitation, acting in organised groups or in isolation, and attracts new criminal groups. For children, who are particularly vulnerable, the risk of becoming a victim of trafficking is higher as a result.



The perpetrators of trafficking will take advantage of the sharp increase in searches for sexual favours to considerably increase their income.

This increase is linked to the massive influx of people in a particularly celebratory context, sometimes having a sense of impunity linked to being away from home, to the exaltation generated by the results of the competition or to the presence of an “offer” in terms of “prostitution”.

Criminal organisations will be tempted to recruit massive numbers of new victims from among vulnerable minors in order to seize this opportunity.



SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN

ARE SOMETIMES THE VICTIMS

OF EXPLOITATION OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Recruitment based on the promise of a better future in Europe	p. 45
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Trafficking through sport is still overlooked today. Yet in football, a genuine market has been set up, focusing on young African players' dreams of coming and playing in Europe. However, agents frequently exploit young players, benefiting from the almost non-existent legal framework and absence of protection.

RECRUITMENT BASED ON THE PROMISE OF A BETTER FUTURE IN EUROPE

Recruiters use the aspirations of young Africans hoping to come and play in Europe to seduce them with offers of a career and a future in professional football on the other side of the Mediterranean. Next, the agents organise the journey and promise players to put them in touch with a club upon arrival.

Only, once in France, the young men have to repay the cost of their passage to Europe and everything they earn is often seized by the agent to pay off their debt.

Once their three-month tourist visas expire, the young players are abandoned by the agent. Left to their own devices and with no actual processing defined for their specific situation, they are then at great risk of trafficking.

Sometimes, young players are also abandoned as soon as they arrive in France if the agents consider there is no change of getting a contract.



YOUNG PEOPLE “OFF THE GRID” NOT RECEIVING ANY CARE

It is very difficult to prove these victims are being exploited. Trafficking through sport is still overlooked in France and agents often remain invisible.

Without evidence proving their recruitment or the organisation of travel to Europe by a third party, the victim becomes a migrant like any other in the eyes of the French authorities. His vulnerability and exploitation are not taken into account and French law makes no provision for support tailored specifically to his needs.

In the eyes of the institutions, the situation of most of these victims does not fall within any legislative framework. They therefore have very little chance of seeing their situation made legal. Moreover, if they don't receive a positive response in one territory, they will go and try their luck elsewhere. And this travelling about makes it hard to provide continuity of monitoring.

ON THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012, THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ADOPTED A RECOMMENDATION [CM/REC(2012)10] ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILD AND YOUNG ATHLETES FROM DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH MIGRATION.

This recommendation points out that more and more athletes are migrating from countries in the global South to Europe or within Europe in pursuit of a career in sport, not only in football but also in other sports.

A large majority of those hoping to pursue a career abroad never acquire professional status, while some are forced into situations that are detrimental to their personal development and welfare.

The conditions in which certain athletes are migrating can include extreme forms of abuse.

Children and young people will be more vulnerable to such extreme situations: their physical and mental immaturity, passion for sport, poverty and ignorance of their rights can all be exploited by scrupulous intermediaries.

FIND OUT MORE

on the Council of Europe's commitment to combating human trafficking:
www.coe.int/trafficking/en

These abuses, crimes or offences, in extreme cases amount to human trafficking.

An appendix to the recommendation sets out guidelines on the protection of child and young athletes.

It recommends enabling young people to grow their potential in their home countries and preparing athletes planning to move abroad.

Migration policies, like sports policies, must take into account the question as a whole covering the following areas: visas, contracts, training, accommodation, etc.

Everything must be done in accordance with fundamental rights and criminal penalties must be applied for public order offences.



MOUHAMED'S JOURNEY

Mouhamed is a young man from Guinea who arrived in France at the age of 18 to join a professional club after being scouted by an agent. Once on French soil, he was abandoned and left to his own devices.

HIS JOURNEY PROVIDES A CLEAR ILLUSTRATION OF THE DANGERS OF THIS TYPE OF EXPLOITATION.

How were you recruited to come to France?

When I was 14, after my mother died, I left Guinea for Senegal to join a training centre. A few years later, I was recruited by a scout who told me about his friends and contacts in the football world, some of whom were my idols.

It was the best day of my life. Meeting someone who made me an offer to go to Europe to play was a dream come true.

Did you have any doubts about the intentions of your agent?

No. Initially, he didn't talk about money to me, but rather about everything I could achieve in football.

After all the terrible problems I'd had in Dakar, I said to myself that, at last, I was going to have enough to eat, I was going to be able to help my grandmother, my family in Africa...

Then, the scout started to ask me for money to pay for the journey and to cover my living expenses once I arrived in France before I got a professional contract. I was really enthusiastic about leaving. I asked everyone I knew to fund this project that was very important to me. A lot of them helped me because they knew about my dream of becoming a footballer. Three of us left by plane. On the day of our arrival in France, the scout abandoned us in Marseille.

From that moment on, how did you survive?

To start with, it was the Guinean community in Marseille which supported and looked after me. Thanks to my contacts, I got to Aubagne where I met someone from the support services at the town hall who tried to help sort out my documents. I was very suspicious because I was very scared of the police, but the support services gradually gained my trust. They steered me towards associations which could assist me and help meet my needs. I was doing odd jobs at the same time to earn a bit of money. In times like this, you don't know who you real friends are, but you just have to try your luck. You have to take this risk in order to find out.

Sometimes I got it wrong, people used me, others made me work without paying me... but I kept going.

I was driven to get out of there, thinking of my family back home... Then I was advised to go and see OICEM, an association in Marseille. They invited me to write down my journey from Guinea to today. They were interested in my story and encouraged me to keep on writing. That's how I started my autobiography. It was really good for me. Today, this has become a book published by Dacres Editions.



What has happened to you since you arrived in France?

I've trained children in different towns and cities. I went to Grenoble because my application for residency in Marseille was unsuccessful. In Grenoble, I met an association which tries to help migrants through a network of host families. This was how I was able to find accommodation and food. But I still hadn't received my documents. Despite this, I continued to train with different clubs. I also completed a "multi-skills restaurant services employee" programme and got a diploma. Then I came to the club in Narbonne which paid me a bit. But without documents, it's complicated.

You're keeping on with your writing today and getting involved in rap. What role does this play in your life?

I would say that writing has been a revelation for me. I'd never read a book before. So I was really surprised to find out that I was capable of writing one. Rap is a way of expressing myself.

When you're shut in a room, rather than getting depressed or getting into a bad mindset, rap can set you free. It helps you release the anger that's inside you.



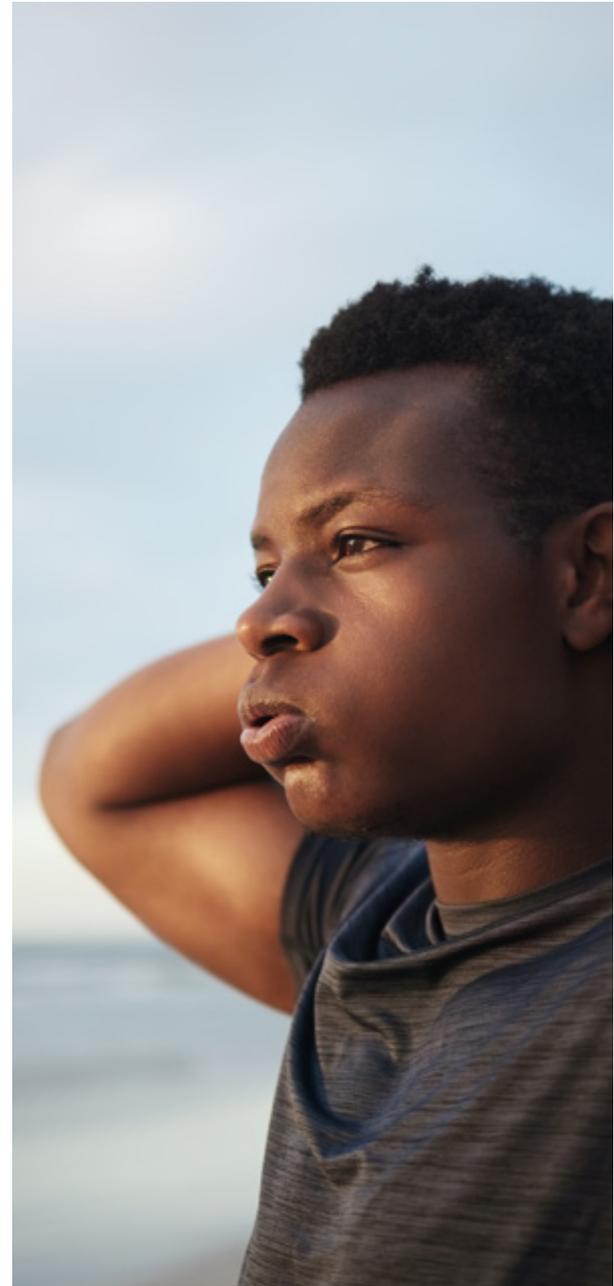
What are your plans for the future now?

There's nothing very clear on the horizon for me today. I'm still completing administrative measures. I have a receipt which is renewed every six months, without authorisation to work. But I'm making progress all the same. I'm 24. I played at a good level this year. I think that I can still get a break in football. I train every day for this. I keep holding on to this dream which I've never abandoned. I've also started to write a second book. Progress is slow but steady. I have sometimes found people who want to hire me. But my undocumented situation stops them from employing me legally. On the one hand, they tell us to integrate, but on the other, they don't give us the right to work...

What is your administrative situation today?

I'm in the process of filing an application in Carcassonne with everything that I've managed to get together in recent years: a diploma, a contract with a publishing house, the volunteering work that I've done with associations, the training I've done with children, my status as a football player. I hope that, with all these things, it will work out.

But, whatever happens, I'm not giving up. I'm never going to give up, ever.



EXPERIENCES AND FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS

OF FULFILLING SPORTING LIVES

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“THE IMPORTANT THING IS **TAKING PART**”

Attributed to Pierre de Coubertin who re-introduced the Olympic Games into modern society, this memorable quote in fact originates from and owes its relevance to a Pennsylvania bishop who set out the foundations in a sermon during the London Olympics in 1908. The baron was in the audience. He repeated the phrase after a dinner hosted by the British government on 24 July 1908, during the 4th Games of the modern era. He added: *“The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well”*.

“AND FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, THE **OPPORTUNITY MUST EXIST**”

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends one hour of physical exercise each day for children and teenagers, and at least two and a half hours per day for adults.

However, the observations are eloquent. In developed countries, 36% of the population is far from meeting these objectives. And, according to the organisation, 1.4 billion people worldwide are not getting enough exercise.

The cost of this problem is estimated at 53 billion in healthcare costs per year according to a study by The Lancet (2016). And this figure increased with the Covid 19 pandemic. One person in every two in France admits not doing any sport even though physical activity has, since 2016, been considered as a therapy on a standalone basis. Since this date, doctors have been able to prescribe sport as a treatment for their patients.

Measures must be taken! Particularly given that inequalities exist in terms of access to sport infrastructure and programmes, notably in underprivileged neighbourhoods and for the disadvantaged. Sport acts as a driver for social action and for fulfillment for men and women, according to the actions undertaken by associations working to combat exclusion and poverty in France, in Europe and around the world.

Those who have the opportunity to get involved in sport can confirm the extent to which sport has changed not only their physical wellbeing but also the way in which they approach life.



AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP

SPORT AND A HOLIDAY FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE

Secours Catholique and UCPA (L'Union nationale des Centres sportifs de Plein Air) have banded together to make it possible for large numbers of children to go away on holiday. They have been hosted in UCPA centres alongside children from a wide range of cultural and social backgrounds. An opportunity for all of them to try out a range of sporting activities, to have a change of scenery and to relax together.

“You can learn loads of things, play, have fun, make friends”

declares young Rose.

WHEN FOOTBALL FACILITATES INSERTION

Sport in general and football in particular are good ways of becoming a member of society. At Secours Catholique, several support football teams composed of disadvantaged individuals kick the ball around each week. The Paris football team trains every Saturday in the 13th district of the capital. Sam, a volunteer who runs the activity at the association, sums up the group's state of mind as follows: *we're here to win, but by pulling together and as a group.* Since it was founded in 1993, the team has racked up numerous victories and won a series of cups. A source of motivation for the players. Because, away from the pitch, they are all struggling with hardship, waiting to get their documents, housing, a "normal" life.

“Football is a way in which encourages them to take the necessary steps, to do whatever it takes to win! Samuel, for example: he's currently completing training to find a job”, concludes Sam.



CARITAS CUP

FOOTBALL FOR ALL

On 8 June 2019, in Marseille, the Paca-Corse Caritas Cup brought together a dozen or so mixed men and women teams from the region. The issue of gender equality was at the very heart of the tournament.

Between matches, break-out sessions for small groups offered participants the chance to talk about who they are, describe the pathway which had brought them to the Caritas Cup and think about topics including solidarity and gender equality.

“Sport is a good way to approach these subjects. It works better than a load of words and theory, because it can be actually lived.”

Maud, coordinator at Secours Catholique Paca-Corse.

With mixed-gender teams, *"it's not always easy to pass the ball to girls who haven't had much experience of playing when you really want to win"*, comments Germain from Secours Catholique in Corse with a smile. Olivier, playing for the Caritas Alpes Maritimes team, says he appreciates the consideration given to the subject of gender equality.

"At home, in Africa, we've still got a great deal of work to do on this subject" he adds.

KHADIJA, COACH WITH A MISSION

For two years now, Khadija, originally from Algeria, has been coaching the Paris Secours Catholique football team and volunteers in a day centre. Her motto? Help others, and always with a smile.

One Saturday morning, on a football pitch in the Parc de Vincennes near Paris, the team made up of people in difficulty, employees and volunteers from the Paris delegation is training with the encouragement of their coach, Khadija.

"Let's go, let's go, deep breaths!"

This slight woman is an arresting figure in the middle of a men's team. With her dyed blonde hair, eyebrow piercing and cinema idol's glasses, you just can't miss Khadija: *"When I was little and I wanted to go to the stadium, I used to dream that people would shout my name! And anyway, I'm unique: I'm left handed but play with my right foot".*

Standing straight and tall in her trainers, Khadija knows what she wants and shuts down anyone who says that football is just for men.

"I also wanted to become a trainer, to show that a woman isn't born just to stay at home!"

For Khadija, football has been a passion since childhood and even a family tradition... Born in a working class area of Oran, Algeria, as a little girl in the 1980s, she played with her neighbours, girls and boys.

She would regularly go to the stadium with her brothers and her father who himself was a former professional and had played for the Algerian national side.

He died when Khadija was only 12 and the young girl made a promise to make him proud of her from up in heaven. She joined football clubs and studied hard at a specialist school (CREPS, centre for sports resources, expertise and performance) to become a trainer and teacher and was even selected to play for the Algerian national side in 1995. But it's not easy to make a living from football if you're a woman in Algeria... So, as *"up to a certain age, you think only of yourself, then afterwards you think of your family"*, Khadija decided to leave, once she had her diploma, to try and support her sick mother. She arrived in France in 2014, not suspecting that the road to migration would be far from smooth.



"The hardest thing is the loneliness" she says. Fortunately, one day, her path brought her to Secours Catholique: "at a bus stop, I helped an elderly lady who was bleeding, I took her to a pharmacy and she told me about Secours Catholique, said I could volunteer there". This is how Khadija was "recruited" to become the trainer for the Paris club.

“What I really like about this team is that whether you're a volunteer, an employee, a migrant or not... we're all on the same playing field when it comes to football.”

Above all, Khadija's goal is to teach the rules of the game and team spirit. She says she herself is very strict:

"It impacts me personally when a player commits a foul. I teach them respect, it's important".

Saturday training sessions always end with a meal together and the ties between members of the team are strong: "I'm not only the coach, I'm a friend who is also trying to listen to and help the players. They call me a lot".

Khadija's volunteering doesn't stop there: on Tuesday mornings, she also helps out at the day care centre. Her fluency in both French and Arabic is very useful when it comes to providing guidance to those from abroad: "People come in with all their heavy luggage and I act as both their eyes and their ears. I also give them my smile, and I'm always relieved when

someone smiles back at me, I'm happy to make them happy!". But Khadija doesn't forget her objective: to help her mum.

Thanks to a contact established at Secours Catholique, she now works in a pizzeria in Paris... except on Tuesdays and Saturday mornings! Her goal: to finally achieve the "open sesame" that getting the proper documents provides when it comes to having her own home ("my very own place") and stop staying at friends' homes; and also to be able to travel and go back to see her mother in Algeria. Her mother... and her son: a 10-year-old boy to whom she sends footballs on a regular basis.

She entrusted him to her family and "misses him loads". She hopes he will be able to come and live with her one day, "once things are no longer so hard". That's all we're going to find out. Khadija likes to keep some things private. One senses the hurt buried deep down inside... But the smile still remains".

“Sport is my life: it gives me wellbeing and allows me to forget my troubles. Khadi without sport wouldn't be Khadi! ” Khadija

IN THE MOUNTAINS, LIVING FULLY IN THE MOMENT

In March, a dozen residents from the Notre-Dame estate, a centre providing housing and fighting social exclusion managed by Cités Caritas in Paris, took part in a trip to Villard-de-Lans (Vercors). An opportunity to see something new and create friendships.

It's snowing. Down below, in Villard-de-Lans, it's still just rain but on getting out of the bubble lift at 1,550 metres above sea level, it really is snow flakes that are falling.

"Mashbold, you're sure this is going to be okay?" Faroudja, 44, socio-cultural group leader, can't hide her concern: *"I'm most worried about the fog. You're sure it's not dangerous at least?"*

It's going to take more than that to mar the enthusiasm:

"It's tough, it feels good! Let's make the most of it! Above all because there's no-one on the pistes". Fahim.

"Making the most of it" rings out like an order for the dozen or so people taking part in this trip to the Vercors region. For six days, each person goes at his or her own pace. But all share the same desire to live each moment to the full, to put their worries behind them, for a few days at least...

"I'm finding my way back today" confides Fabien. *This break represents a great deal of things for me: it's calm here, you can*

see animals... I feel better than I do in Paris. I forget about pollution, nicotine, I'm emptying my mind, I'm unwinding".

Following two years of interruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the team has finally been able to launch this new project, 80% of the cost of which has been financed by France's "holiday vouchers" body (the Association nationale des chèques-vacances or ANCV). Thanks to this partnership, residents can also get support for individual holiday plans.

"The aim of the group holidays is to end isolation"

explains social assistant Évangelos.

Most of those taking part already know each other, because they are provided with accommodation on the same site. But, on a day-to-day basis, this sometimes means just saying hello to each other. Here, they are having shared experiences and each person has to find his or her place in the group.

"This holiday is integration into society..."

For us too, these breaks are important. On the estate, it's not easy to create a feeling of mutual trust when we meet with people in our offices.

"Here, it's astonishing how easily they are able to open up. I feel like I'm really getting to know them."

HEADING FOR THE SUMMITS

Accompanied by two “Young Caritas” volunteers from the Seine-et-Marne area, Alpha, Boubakar and Touré, three young Guinean asylum seekers in France were introduced to the mountains, visiting Massif de l’Oisans range (Hautes-Alpes). There’s joking and teasing during the first stage. But nevertheless. Little-by-little, as they cross the stones buffeted by the sharp, clean air, contemplation of the high mountain peaks imposes a silence tinged with solemnity. Alpha turns to look at the scree which colours the glacier with a greyish layer.

"You see, when I first arrived in the area, thirty years ago, the glacier came all the way down to there" comments Jean-Louis, one of the two mountaineers who volunteer with the association 82-4000 Solidaires who are accompanying the group:

"It's melting really fast!"

The group reaches the mountain hut.

For Touré *"The mountains are an amazing experience. There are a lot of strong emotions, effort, you need to overcome your fears. I love this"*, says the young man with a smile.

As he was climbing up from the lake towards the mountain hut, he suddenly felt the sharp, stabbing pain that has been bothering him since his knee operation. But never mind!

“This is how to relax. Nature is beautiful, so much bigger than anything man can ever do. There's no noise. I feel good, physically and mentally.”

They put their things away in the dormitory. Alpha takes this opportunity to find a quiet corner away from the others, his prayer mat rolled under his arm. He is grinning broadly when he comes back

As a symbol, he tells this story from the first day, during the introduction to climbing: *"The mountains are great for forgetting, for putting what's weighing you down behind you"* says Touré. Choosing to come away to the mountains was not however an easy choice for him, with his still vivid memories of crossing the Italian border as an asylum seeker.

“It's good to be doing a physical activity again, to feel your body. All the stress and tiredness... It's all going”, adds Touré, mentioning the weariness of day-to-day living threatened by having nothing to do.

"There are some meetings with the local authorities, then you just have to wait, always waiting. What is difficult above all is that you don't have the right to work" regrets this qualified car mechanic.

A situation that feels humiliating. *"You still need to manage to get by somehow. I do a little business, buying and selling phone and IT equipment"*. Alpha adds: *"You can't just sit around twiddling your thumbs. Otherwise you'd risk becoming lazy. I wasn't taught to go cap in hand when I was a child"*. Keeping their fingers crossed, Touré and Boubakar are already talking about next time. *"I'd like to learn things, discover new places"* says Boubakar with a smile. *I know the way now"*.

A MAGICAL MOMENT IN TIME ON THE WATER FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

Optimist dinghies, paddle boards, kayaks... For one week, a dozen children from Marseille tried out a range of watersports at the Point Rouge UCPA centre, in partnership with Secours Catholique.

A few days to discover sailing skills and, above all, for both children and parents, a change to have some fun and forget the day-to-day troubles of living in poverty, frequently made worse by the pandemic.

The gentle lapping of the waves, the warm sun shining on the sails of the boats and the surrounding buildings and, in the distance, the hills which surround the bay...

The landscape, viewed from the Pointe Rouge beach, is stunning this Thursday morning, but Malak and Iska are not interested. The two young girls aged 10 are busy with their Optimist dinghy which they are getting ready to launch. "Pass me that rope there! It needs to go on this thingy" one calls out to the other. "Put the sheet on the pulley" points out Thomas, one of two sailing instructors working with the group of learners. "Oh, yes, that's it, the pulley!" says Iska, as Malak re-ties the figure-of-eight knot that Thomas has just shown her.

Some of the sailing terminology, taught using diagrams to the children that morning by Louis, the other instructor, still hasn't quite sunk in. But when it comes to launching their dinghies and clambering in, the skippers of these small craft in their life jackets don't need to be told twice.



The excitement is palpable and, once they're launched on the waves, the pleasure is obvious. "Next, we put in the daggerboard" Louis calls out. "We're going to set a course for Notre-Dame-de-Garde!" Thomas adds. Iska pulls the sheet tight while Malak, at the rudder, aims towards the landmark Marseille church.

Between concentration and jubilation, the group of young sailors tack and luff for thirty minutes. Then, the instructors give them the green light to jump in: screams of joy and laughter follow the dives and belly flops. A few metres away, Mickaël, Hossam, Malak and the others have just launched a giant paddle board. While they wait for the instructors, they have fun, jumping off this enormous floaty big enough for all of them to climb on. They try to keep it balanced and splash each other with their paddles, laughing wildly. At that moment, any money worries or fear of the nasty virus seem far, far away.

This week spent on the water is a magic period out of time for these kids who live in neighbourhoods in north Marseille or in the 3rd district, one of the city's poorest.

Most of those taking part haven't left Marseille for weeks or even months.



GAZA

SPORT AS A WAY OF OVERCOMING DISABILITY

In the Gaza strip, disabled children and adults discover or rediscover sports facilities. They are accompanied by the Palestinian amputees' football association (PAFA) which works to encourage people to practice sport as a way of promoting inclusivity.

The territory's very first team of amputee players was set up in 2018 in Deir Albalah, in the centre of the Gaza strip. Most of the players were shot by soldiers during a military offensive in the Palestinian enclave.

Since then, the association has flourished. Today, the organisation supports five football teams, in the north and the south of the territory. In all, there are 80 football fans aged from 16 to 45 who attend the training run each week by PAFA volunteers and take part in the national championship organised by the association.

PAFA volunteer Iyad Alasttal considers that, by putting on their football boots, they start to rebuild their lives, both physically, mentally and socially.

“Our role is to reach out to them to help them escape the solitude in which they are shut away and enjoy themselves.”

Iyad

The project is aimed at encouraging the younger players to get some exercise despite the lack of infrastructure from which the Gaza strip suffers after 16 years of total blockade. Handball, basketball, swimming, cycling... In this way, some thirty children with amputated limbs, girls and boys aged between 6 and 16, have the chance to try out some ten different sporting activities.

In a territory with over 75,000 inhabitants with motor or visual disabilities, sport can also help bring about a change in the mentality.

“The way people look is in the process of changing. If you cross an amputee in the street carrying a rucksack and using crutches, kicking a ball on the way to football practice, it's no longer a shock. There's even respect there.”

Iyad notes.



REINFORCING WELLBEING FOR WOMEN

In June 2023, residents and the entire team from the AFJ centre which supports female victims of human trafficking took part in an official event called “les 10kms de l’Hexagone”. This involves running or walking a course set out in the Auteuil Hippodrome in the Bois de Boulogne near Paris.

The idea was to get involved in a sport event in order to offer all of the women the possibility of taking part in an intense and unique adventure which helps strengthen ties as everyone helps each other and stress levels fall away.

Sport is in fact an excellent way of strengthening wellbeing in women and of increasing their self-confidence while having positive impacts on their health.

More specifically, walking or running provide an opportunity to open up to the outside world and get some fresh air in a pleasant environment.

In addition to taking part in a race, the project also consisted of helping the women prepare for the event through several physical training sessions in the open air.

“Creating a sports routine makes it possible to move away from a sedentary lifestyle.”

These sessions were led by the needs of the women themselves, while trying to diversify the exercises to introduce several new physical activities tailored to each person's individual level. The women took time to prepare physically for this event, via walks and runs in the neighbourhood of the centre.

For the women, this day was a positive experience. As demonstrated for example by those women who ran the entire length of the course, by the moments of joy as the medals were handed out and by the group dancing at the end of the walk. Everyone walked the entire length of the course, chatting and swapping stories with each other. There was a great deal of mutual support and encouragement for the length of the course.

The women also declared that they wished to continue with physical activity after the event. Links both between the residents themselves and with the support team were reinforced. In addition, other types of sports equipment is available in the centre and can be used in the future so as to diversify efforts as much as possible.



SPORT AS A FACTOR IN THE INTEGRATION AND SOCIALIZATION OF CHILDREN

Sport allows young people to meet adults and other people their age who have interests in common, which gives them the possibility of becoming part of a community and identifying with others.

Sport also has an educational dimension in that it provides training for young athletes, in particular in terms of self control, self-regulation and autonomy.

This learning process allows young athletes to act with loyalty and in accordance with an accepted set of rules.

Mental and physical health is also an important factor to be highlighted, in both preventive and therapeutic terms. Other virtues can also be identified, such as self expression, freedom of speech, emancipation and independence.

Many young people therefore see sport as a way of achieving a better future.

Via its member associations, La Voix De L'Enfant offers children and teenagers activities linked directly to sport, considering that practising a sport makes it possible to contribute to their

social and personal development while at the same time promoting cohesion through the creation of social connections.

6 teenagers hosted by La Vie Active (an association and member of La Voix De L'Enfant which supports unaccompanied minors) were interviewed: 4 play football, 1 runs and 1 plays cricket. They played these sports already in their countries of origin. Some are members of clubs and others play sport in the context of the activities offered by an association or just with friends.

Each have their own preferences in terms of players and clubs:

For football players and clubs: "*Lionel Messi*", "*Kylian Mbappé*", "*Ronaldo*" and "*Barcelona*", "*Paris*", "*Real Madrid*" and "*Bayern Munich*"

For cricket: "*Rashid Khan*" and "*Kabul*"



Team sports or individual sports? The answers are mixed:

"Playing as a team motivates me";

"Being in a group motivates me, being alone motivates me too. And when I'm by myself, my head clears, the problems go way";

"When I play sport as part of a group, I can have fun with my friends, chat, have a laugh, feel motivated. When I practice sport by myself, I put on some music, get my headphones on and my head clears. When I get back home, I'm feeling good";

"I don't like being by myself very much, it's a bit boring";

"I prefer to be with others, to have fun, be with my friends, have a laugh. It goes me good"

Those who are registered with a club explain that competition is important but that having fun, being with friends, remains the most important thing.

The six teenagers also like to watch sport on a screen, to watch matches and support their favourite team, their country of origin and the athletes who are going to come to France. Sport teaches them rules.

The adults accompanying them confirm the clear improvements achieved thanks to sport: self confidence, language skills, self assurance...

"For them, it is the socialisation aspect that comes first, this forms part of integration. They make friends through sport"



"Sport is really first of all fun and health. It is in some way a source of wellbeing. Dance is pretty rhythmic, it's the same thing, it provides a kind of wellbeing and respect for others" adds the support worker.

"Contributing to the organisation process during sports-related trips is also beneficial for young people. It teaches them to become a little bit more autonomous and is a way of providing information, encouraging growth".

"Sport provides physical wellbeing but is above all in the mind. When Mamadou first came here, he didn't speak any French. He was quite closed off, introverted. Going to a club, meeting other young people, has enabled him to improve his French, he is able to communicate with people better and, so, it's easier to communicate with everyone. He's part of the football club now".

While they may prefer sport, these teenagers have other sources of wellbeing: preparing food, going to the cinema, going to the park or the sea. Some also go riding as part of equine therapy and equine mediation.

FAIR PLAY, DISCIPLINE AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITIZENS OF TOMORROW

L'Académie Football Paris 18, another association and member of La Voix De l'Enfant, promotes the neighbourhood and its cohesion through the creation of social connections via support for initiatives taken by locals.

THE WORDS OF A SUPPORT WORKER

"We work in a working-class area designated as a priority neighbourhood by the City, located between Porte de la Chapelle and Porte d'Aubervilliers in Paris. We use football as a means of insertion and, above all, as a good way of leading young people towards other activities, in particular, support with school work, cultural visits and all of the issues that can impact families and young people in the area. If you want to support the young person, you have to take the parent into consideration.

"We want to give marbles to parents, teaching them to play this game, for example, and creating connections, from the very early years onwards."

For teenagers, we can stop them dropping out of school by offering them training programmes and support.

We have always known that sport can be a place where children can start to build an identity, create relationships built on trust between themselves and with us. They develop and express themselves in both positive and negative terms.

"This is a place where they can express themselves. They learn self-knowledge and, for some of them, how to assert themselves."

The young people have no hesitation in confiding in us. Sport allows us to see how they feel: if they're not doing well, we notice this and take the time to chat with them. Sport allows young people to speak up more easily because it's something that they love. When they invest in something they love, they obviously do everything they can do to succeed or to do things well; so, if something is stopping them, they have no hesitation about speaking up because the relationship built on trust has already been put in place.



We see positive changes in young people thanks to sport. The first thing is to have self confidence. We have seen young people totally lacking in self confidence, who never spoke up in front of a group, who were always alone or isolated. And taking part in a team sport and having to express themselves leads to this self confidence being established. The group effect enables this sharing and facilitates discussions with others. Lots of very shy young people let themselves go thanks to sport. The impact can be seen on other activities such as support with academic work, where they make more progress thanks to sport.

“In terms of mental health, sport really promotes socialisation and wellbeing.”

Socialisation brings freedom, young people express themselves more and have more self confidence. In terms of physical health, Covid has left its mark, such as early signs of obesity in some, not longer knowing how to eat properly, how to take care of your body, from the earliest age.

“Sport allows them to find a better rhythm and a healthier way of life.”

Within the association, we've seen several cases of child exploitation, in particular, in drug dealing. We noticed that the boy had stopped coming to football. When we asked the parents, they thought he was attending. When we asked the child, he was hesitant. And it was a friend who told us that the "big guy" told him not to go, because he had to work. Sometimes, it's the parents who sound the alarm. We've also lost some youngsters because, in addition to dealing, some start using. We alerted the authorities to have them take action. Then, more recently, we had the case of a dad who banned his son from going to the match on Sunday because he had to work on the market. We had to negotiate with the father for the child to be able to play sport instead of working. We insisted, and the father ended up by agreeing.

When we spot a child being forced to deal drugs or something else, we have to take action straightaway in the field, in particular, through mediation. We also try to work with the other associations active in the area.

In terms of criminal law, the investigations take too long and the perpetrators aren't bothered at all. And even when people are sent to prison, we know that they keep on exploiting young people from behind bars. Sometimes, the orders come from the prison itself.

As an association, we have to be vigilant because there is a risk we would not longer be able to act on the ground. There needs to be a relationship built on trust in order to be able to protect these minors, playing the card of sport and the future. We need to use public space to stop the perpetrators having a presence, to "stand up to their market". We have certain possibilities but we don't always have the resources to develop these completely and correctly.

We have young people who have been exploited and who are now not because they are more committed to the association and to sport. But we are always worried, because some of them could be exploited once again at any time. Young people can get caught up in this once more because as long as the people running the networks have this need, and their teams are not complete, they can grab the first person who comes along and force them to deal drugs. If the young person has an activity and they know that he's being supported by a structure that they know, they leave him alone. But the day he no longer has this activity and he has no job or training, he can be caught up in it all once again.

“The children being exploited are getting younger and younger. Before, these were teenagers, aged over 15, but now they are children aged 12 or 13.”



What is hard is that we can raise as many alerts as we can, but if no formal complaint is filed, the police don't really bother that much. And there's always a risk of reprisals from the dealers.

Football is useful for us because children love it, and so we always have this point of contact with which to encourage them to take part in our activities. When the young person no longer dreams of a future in football, we don't have that many ways of bringing them in, for social and educational activities in particular, or of providing support with school attendance.

“But we know that it's better for them to be with us, otherwise it's the street calling.”

So we try to find ways of encouraging them to come, even when this dream has disappeared”.

SPORT, A VECTOR FOR EMANCIPATION

Secours Catholique, in partnership with France's Fédération sportive et gymnique du travail (FSGT) and several associations from the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region, have launched "Sport For All", a project aimed at achieving social transformation.

“Sport makes it possible to change the way society looks both at disability and at gender issues.”

Aurore, head of the MENA division
at Secours Catholique

The objective of this joint initiative which is being rolled out in Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and France is to strengthen the power to act of vulnerable communities - women, people with disabilities, refugees - via access to the practice of sport. *"Sport is a vector for emancipation"*, says Aurore, who describes a snowball effect: *"By asserting their right to practice a sport, participants realise that they can take action to enforce other rights and replicate this experience in other areas of their lives. This is the case in Hebron, in the West Bank, where women who attend swimming lessons are taking action on other rights, like the right to be out in public and to organise other activities for themselves"*.

Yes, the important thing is taking part! And the ambition is not lacking. The Olympic and Paralympic Games must indeed be a celebration of each and every one: *"Let's throw the Games wide open!"*

But not at any cost in human and environmental terms! Any initiative or event of this kind also has its less joyful side, or even a dark side, like many other global sporting, cultural or artistic events of the past and future.

The important thing is also helping reduce or eliminate such aspects! A new discipline for sport?





SPORT, A WAY FOR CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF EXTREME VULNERABILITY, VIOLENCE AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING TO START TO BUILD A LIVE FOR THEMSELVES OR TO START AFRESH

The multi-disciplinary teams from Hors La Rue propose sporting activities on a regular basis to the young people supported by the association: five-a-side (indoor or outdoor), swimming, etc.

These sporting activities meant that a fun and educational break can be offered to young people dealing with numerous constraints and who work in the street each day.

The first challenge is to guarantee that these young people are "free" to take part in these activities: taking part can in fact imply a loss of income that can be hard for young people to accept as they are frequently forced to work to pay off a debt or guarantee a place in a flat or a squat. The organisation of these activities therefore implies planning ahead and preparing to make sure that all are able to take part.

"When we succeed in maintaining them, these moments shared with young people are often rich: even if the game is taken serious (in particular, when we're talking about a football match), the teenagers who take part find themselves in a situation that is typical of their age, they are making a physical effort and having fun. They are also facing up in a "healthy" manner to well-intentioned adults and cooperating with them and other young people.

"Sport therefore enables the positive transformation of the interactions they are experiencing on a daily basis, but which are often marred by violence."

Finally, sport of any kind implies the definition of and compliance with rules, which often provides a good occasion to promote their capacity to respect rules, even when the question of transgression is central to their situation” explains Guillaume, from the association Hors La Rue.

Since the system for providing shelter that we operate with the association Aurore has been put in place, it has become easier to offer repeat activities as the young people regularly stay overnight. As after a while they are in a more stable situation, daily physical exercises can be offered by a sports instructor. At first, taking part in these activities can be explained by a somewhat futile desire to sculpt the body.

But we also observe that participants keep on coming as they accept the suggestions containing signposting towards care and agree to work on their addictions to prescription medicines.

Sport is a vital means of reinforcing the support provided to young people coerced into crime. It implies physical activity that can, for a certain period of time at least, put some kinds of drug use on the back burner.

It shifts confrontation onto a symbolic plane, making it possible to touch on questions relating to the body and how to look after it, an essential factor in making these young people aware of the dangerous nature of their situation.



TO FIND OUT MORE

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CONSEQUENCES OF EXPLOITATION IN TERMS OF THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

EXPLOITATION OF ADULTS

"Trauma is the experience of a life mismatch between a threatening situation and the personal ability to deal with it, accompanied by feelings of powerlessness and abandonment without defence, which generates a lasting crisis in the understanding of the self and of others"

Gottfried Fischer (German psychologist and psychotherapist, 1944-2013)

Human trafficking is a form of interpersonal trauma which has a significant impact on the life of survivors: the victims, being exposed to different categories of abuse and coercion (for example, sexual and emotional abuse, physical attacks, verbal threats, deprivation of fundamental needs, isolation, humiliation, etc.), find themselves facing a plethora of consequences from a psychological, emotional, financial and physical point of view.

Traffickers sometimes treat their victims in a humiliating and degrading manner, calling them unpleasant names, treating them like less than nothing and failing to meet their basic physical and emotional needs such as food, sleep and a welcoming environment.



THE CONSEQUENCES CAN BE

Psychological

- recurrent nightmares,
- sleep disorders,
- feelings of detachment and withdrawal,
- inability to feel emotion,
- agitation, depressive moods,
- difficulties in concentrating, hyper vigilance,
- irritability/outbursts of anger,
- inability to recall part or most of the trauma-causing event,
- loss of interest in day-to-day activities, withdrawal from society or isolation,
- avoidance of thoughts or feelings associated with the trauma-causing events,
- compulsive or inhibited sexuality,

Physical

- fatigue, weight loss or gain,
- headaches, vertigo,
- amnesia, fainting, vomiting,
- urinary tract / pelvic region pain, vaginal discharge / pain, gynecological infections,
- breathing difficulties,
- toothache,
- facial injuries, fractures / sprains,
- sight problems,
- unwanted pregnancies,
- hepatitis, HIV infections.

EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

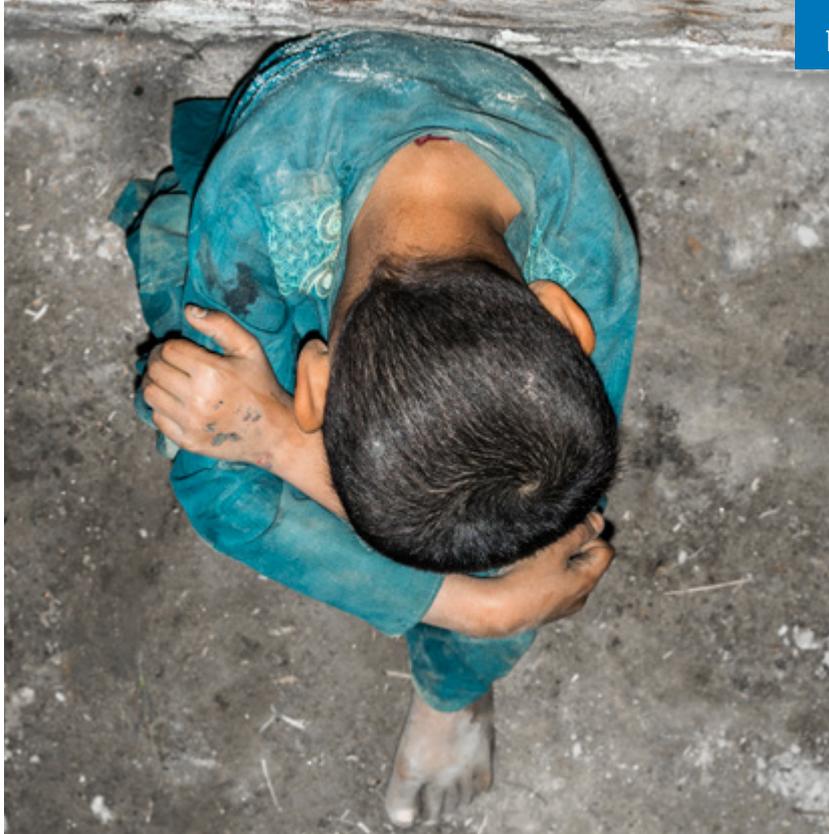
"Moreover, it is not necessarily the degree of seriousness of the events experienced which causes the trauma, but rather the manner in which these events were experienced by the individual depending on his or her personality, past history and the moment at which they occurred".

Bénédicte Lavaud-Legendre
(Lawyer at the University of Bordeaux, researcher with the CNRS)

Sleep disorders, such as a reduction in the duration of sleep, difficulty in falling asleep, frequent waking, nightmares, sleepless nights and early morning waking, appear to be more prevalent in children and teenagers after a traumatic event.

Children and teenagers may begin to demonstrate antisocial tendencies such as oppositional behaviour, delinquency, substance abuse, unprotected sex and other similar behaviours.

The trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation and for labour is associated with high levels of violence and injury.



THE CONSEQUENCES CAN BE

Physical

- *problems relating to respiratory, digestive and sexual health,*
- *physical pain and headaches,*
- *dizzy spells,*

Psychological

- *anxiety, depression,*
- *post-traumatic stress,*
- *suicidal thoughts.*

Other consequences of exploitation can include:

- *despair, lack of energy,*
- *self-harm, flashbacks,*
- *avoidance of specific individuals or places,*
- *reconstruction of traumatic events in play,*
- *palpitations, vertigo, feelings of suffocation,*
- *weight loss,*
- *dependance on alcohol or substances.*

CORPORATE DUTY OF CARE

WHY IS THE DUTY OF CARE?

The duty of care is an obligation, both legal and moral, incumbent upon companies, in particular in multi-national businesses, to verify their supply and production chains so as to avoid all voluntary or involuntary breaches of human, social and environmental rights.

In certain European countries, this obligation has become mandatory and requires companies to do everything possible to ensure that no violation of rights occurs in their processes for the provision of goods and services.

Since 2017, this obligation has been enshrined in French law so as to make this a legal responsibility between parent companies and their subsidiaries abroad, giving head office contractual liability in the event of a breach.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Today, there are over 50 million people worldwide living in modern slavery. It is estimated that 21 million people are involved in forced labour or exploitation.

Forced labour and violations of the fundamental rights of workers are endemic in certain sectors of the global economy such as personal services, textiles, industry, catering and hospitality, construction, agriculture, etc.

We know from the various scandals that have erupted in the last ten years, such as the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in 2013 and many others besides, that poor workers are exploited on the other side of the world and also in France, in the performance of work involving personal services or cleaning, for example, to put up buildings in our towns and cities, produce the mass consumer goods sold by our multinationals who have hardly any responsibilities with regard to their subcontractors.

For each consumer good produced, there is therefore a high probability that exploited workers have taken part in the manufacturing process at one stage or another.

In the fields, on construction sites, in restaurants or other sectors, low qualified staff may be forced to work with little or no pay, and in inhuman working conditions.

In all areas of economic activity, exploitation and human trafficking are taking place.

It is for this reason that the associations making up the group Ensemble contre la traite are working to obtain more restrictive legislation for companies in terms of human rights.

WHAT CAN WE, AS CITIZENS, DO?

We can all make a commitment to prevent human trafficking and take action for change!

By obtaining information on human trafficking and situations of exploitation, we can help these poor workers without a voice emerge from the shadows and we can discuss this with those around us.

By being vigilant as to the country of production and the manufacturing conditions of the products that we buy or the working conditions of those providing us with services, we can choose to support ethical brands and businesses.

By contacting the companies that supply us, we can ask for transparency regarding manufacturing conditions and respect for human rights.

By putting questions to political decision-makers, we demonstrate that we are concerned about situations involving exploitation and that we are claiming the introduction of more ambitious and protective policies.



ACTING TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION IN THE WORKPLACE

Since 1994, the Committee for the Prevention of Modern Slavery (Comité contre l'esclavage moderne or CCEM) has been campaigning against all forms of human trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in the workplace in France.

The CCEM is tasked with identifying and processing victims, their psycho-social and legal support (including providing a safe place and taking legal action against the perpetrators), raising awareness in the general public, training professionals and, finally, holding the public authorities to account.

The CCEM has observed a 30% increase in the number of accompanied victims of trafficking in recent years, due to better knowledge of the phenomenon and support for and protection of victims. Victims currently come from more than 50 countries, in particular in North Africa, West Africa and the Philippines.

The economic sectors involved are varied and may be involved during the Olympics: personal services, caretaking, security, cleaning, construction, catering, etc.



LEGAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The definition of trafficking in human beings was set out by the Palermo Protocol, aimed at preventing, suppressing and punishing trafficking in persons, in particular, women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Organised Crime (2000).

This definition is in particular used by two international instruments ratified by France on the subject of trafficking in human beings: **the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings** (known as the Warsaw Convention, 2005) and **Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council** ratified by France in 2006, on combating and preventing trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2011).

In French law, the offence of human trafficking is defined by Article 225-4-1 of the French Criminal Code. This was modified by the law of 5 August 2013 (Law no. 2013-711) to ensure compliance with the **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (known as the Warsaw Convention, 2005), Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.**

"1. - Trafficking in human beings consists of recruiting, transporting, transferring, hosting or accommodating a person for the purposes of exploitation in one of the following circumstances:

1 Either with the use of threat, constraint, violence or fraudulent manipulating targeting the victim, his or her family or a personal in regular contact with him or her

2 Or by a legal, natural or adoptive ascendant of such person or by a person having authority over him or her or abusing the authority conferred thereupon by his or her official duties

3 Or via the abuse of a situation of vulnerability due to age, illness, infirmity, physical or mental deficiency or to pregnancy, either apparent or known to the perpetrator

4 Or in exchange for or via the granting of remuneration or of any other benefit or a promise of remuneration of advantages".

FIND OUT MORE

about the Council of Europe Convention: www.coe.int/trafficking



The exploitation referred to in the first paragraph of the article cited above is defined as the fact of placing the victim at the disposal of the perpetrator or of a third party, even unidentified, in order either to permit the perpetration against the victim of offences of pimping, aggression or sexual violence, reduction to slavery, submission to forced work or services, servitude, harvesting of organs, exploitation through begging, accommodation or working conditions contrary to human dignity, or forcing the victim to commit any crime or offence.

France's Second National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking (2019-2021) included two measures specific to underage victims of human trafficking: the generalisation of the experimental protection measures and the creation of secure support centres for minors in danger (measures 25 and 26 of the Plan). While these measures were relevant, they were only very partially implemented for reasons relating to politics and resources.

CRIMINALITY AND IMMUNITY: THE TREATIES AND DIRECTIVES TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IN FRANCE

We note in the field that a significant number of minors coerced into committing crimes are the subject of prosecution for acts perpetrated in the context of their exploitation, even though their exploiters can be prosecuted for human trafficking. (For example: young people locked up in prison while their parents are themselves accused of human trafficking).

However, Member States can decide not to prosecute or impose sanctions on victims of trafficking for having taken part in criminal activities as a result of coercion.

Concerning the non-punishment provision, article 26 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings indicates that each party must, in accordance with the basic principles of its legal system, provide for the possibility of not imposing penalties on victims for their involvement in unlawful activities, to the extent that they have been compelled to do so.

Concerning the absence of prosecution or the non-application of punishments on victims, article 8 of European Union directive 2011/36 indicates that Member States must, in accordance with the basic principles of their legal systems, take the necessary measures to ensure that competent national authorities are entitled not to prosecute or impose penalties on victims of trafficking in human beings for their involvement in criminal activities which they have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of being subjected to any of the acts referred to in article 2.

The most recent assessment report concerning France, adopted in 2022 by the Group of experts on action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA) highlights the obligations linked to the principle of not punishing victims/survivors of trafficking.

SEE
www.coe.int/trafficking-France

FILING A COMPLAINT, A COMPLEX PROCESS

Filing a complaint in relation to human trafficking offences is not an easy process and social support can facilitate access to court proceedings. Victims are therefore identified by associations via a series of indicators (behavioural, narrated, physical) forming a bundle of evidence making it possible to consider that the individual has been a victim of trafficking.



HOW CAN VICTIMS BE IDENTIFIED AND SUPPORTED?

For identification to take place under optimal conditions, it is vital to be able to ensure that all conversations are confidential and to establish a relationship based on trust in order in particular to be able to assess the degree of urgency and adapt to the time constraints of the victim and potentially offer him or her a place in a shelter.

Once this identification has been completed, personalised social support specific to the trafficking situation can be set up. This support aims to enable the verbal expression of the violence experienced, as well as access to rights, and is based in particular on the identification of needs in terms of accommodation or placing in shelter, the risk of reprisals and needs in terms of access to care (in particular, psychological).

SPECIFIC LEGAL SUPPORT

From a legal point of view, dedicated support can be proposed if the individual wishes.

The aim will be to explain the procedure and the rights of the victims, to provide support with the drafting of a statement concentrating on the facts, dates and places to facilitate the filing of the complaint or even to form the basis of a letter of complaint addressed to the Public Prosecution department having territorial jurisdiction.

This must be done with respect for the timescale of the victim. To do this, it must be possible to present the entirety of the procedure and the difficulties that may arise (in particular concerning exposure to reprisals) as well as the advantages in terms of recognition of victim status.

COURT PROCEEDINGS

During court proceedings, it is vital to be able to alert participants to the need to adapt the proceedings to the rights and needs of the victim, in particular when face-to-face confrontations are envisaged, and also to prevent multiple hearings by different contacts.

Support for victims of offences also makes it possible to pay specific attention to the criminal law qualification of the facts reported, which has consequences in particular in terms of the right to remain and right to financial support potentially available to the victim (see below). If the victim wishes to act as a civil plaintiff, he or she will be supported in this via contact with a legal professional (barrister or solicitor) and help with the conduct of the proceedings.

The associations can also provide support in terms of how to calculate damages, in particular in cases of expert appraisal if the court orders an investigation.

Finally, if the case comes to trial, the support teams will be there in order to help the victim and potentially flag up the need to secure the courtroom and areas surrounding the court if there is a risk of pressure and intimidation.

RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS

Moreover, a non-French victim of human trafficking has the right to request administrative protection for the time taken to complete the criminal proceedings.

On the basis of article L425.A of CESEDA (French Code governing the Entry and Stay of Foreigners and Asylum Seekers), this person can have access to a residency permit marked "private and family life" which grants the right to work and is valid for one year, renewable while the proceedings are still ongoing.

Any person who has given a witness statement or file a complaint can ask to benefit from the aide for asylum seekers (ADA) by submitting an application to the French Office for Integration and Immigration, subject to asking the Prefecture to issue a statement setting out the grounds for granting of the status, in order to obtain the right to such aid.

If the accused are found guilty, the victim can be automatically granted a residency permit.



OBSTACLES TO REGULARISATION

A few points for special attention

Obtaining a temporary residency permit is not always easy, given that identity documents are required by the Prefecture.

However, victims are not always able to prove their identity and do not necessarily have the financial resources necessary to pay the charges impose by their embassy.

If the complaint is closed without action, the Prefecture may examine the grounds for the granting of a residency permit on other grounds, in particular: involvement in a scheme for exiting prostitution, grounds relating to exceptional granting of leave to remain, residence to obtain care, etc.

In addition, an application to obtain refugee status can be filed before, during or after the complaint.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that this is a fairly long process during which the individual will have to go over all of the events once again and prove that she has been effectively removed from the network by which she was exploited. The effective requirement here is to have ended all connections with the perpetrators.

IN FRANCE, THE LEGISLATION PROHIBITS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION VIA DIFFERENT PROVISIONS OF CRIMINAL LAW

Human trafficking is punishable by:

- a 7-year prison sentence and a 150,000€ fine
- a 20-year prison sentence and a 3,000,000€ fine if perpetrated by an organised group
- a life sentence and a 4,500,000€ fine if acts of torture have been perpetrated.

Human trafficking involving minors is punishable by:

- a 10-year prison sentence and a 1,500,000€ fine
- a life sentence and a 4,500,000€ fine in the event of aggravating circumstances.

Pimping is punishable by:

- a 7-year prison sentence and a 150,000€ fine
- a 10-year prison sentence and a 1,500,000€ fine in the event of aggravating circumstances.

Pimping involving minors aged under 15 is punishable by:

- a 20-year prison sentence and a 3,000,000€ fine.

Sexual incitement

(incitement of a minor by an adult, using electronic means of communication, to commit any act of a sexual nature on his or her person or a third party)

- a 7-year prison sentence and a 100,000€ fine
- a 10-year prison sentence and a 150,000€ fine for minors aged under 15.

Sextorsion

(the recording or use of the image or representation of a minor of a pornographic nature)

- a 7-year prison sentence and a 100,000€ fine
- a 10-year prison sentence and a 150,000€ fine for minors aged under 15.

They generally exploit the insecure and/or dysfunctional situations in which most of these children are living.

In certain cases, the perpetrator is a family member who benefits from the sexual violence carried out against the child.

The purchase of a sex act is prohibited in France: soliciting, accepting or obtaining relations of a sexual nature from an individual involved in prostitution, including on an occasional basis, in exchange for remuneration or the promise of remuneration, the provision of a benefit in kind or the promise of such a benefit.

The purchase of a sex act from adults involved in prostitution:

- Level 5 offence (1,500€ fine)
- Repeat offending is punishable by a 3,750€ fine
- In the case of aggravating circumstances, the punishments are increased to a five-year prison sentence and a 75,000€ fine.

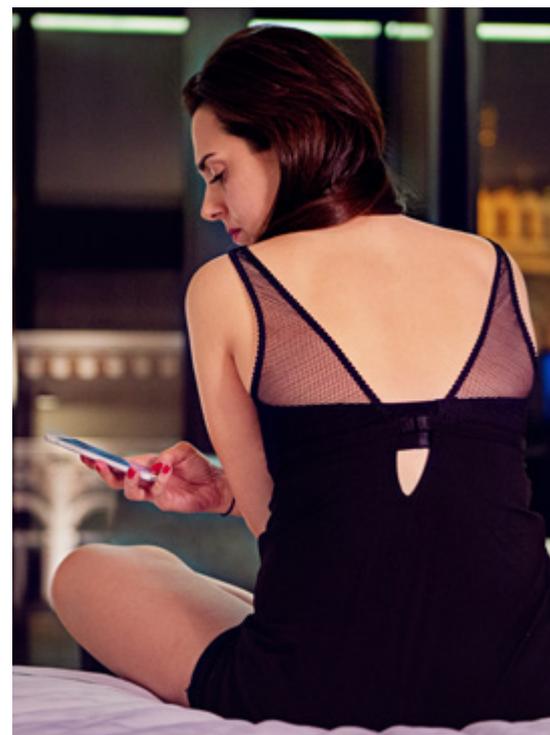
The purchase of a sex act from minors (aged 15-18) involved in prostitution:

- a 5-year prison sentence and a 75,000€ fine
- a 7-year prison sentence and a 100,000€ fine in the event of aggravating circumstances.

The purchase of a sex act from minors aged under 15 involved in prostitution:

- a 20-year prison sentence and a fine of between 300,000€ and 3,000,000€ depending on the circumstances.

If the minor is involved in prostitution, he or she can never be deemed to have given "consent" to a sex act. In addition to the penalties linked to the prostitution of minors, the client is therefore also exposed to prosecution for rape (20-year prison sentence) or sexual violence (10-year prison sentence and 150,000€ fine).



EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

VULNERABILITY FACTORS

Several factors increase the vulnerability of children and facilitate the recruitment of minors and their exploitation by adults. Perpetrators take advantage of the fragility of the child to identify, recruit and dominate him or her.



Age

It is above all this status as a child, aged from 0 to 18, that renders him or her particularly vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation. The degree of maturity and development of the child does not allow him or her to analyse all situations and assess all risks. So, while a number of factors come into play, age first and foremost can be a unique factor for vulnerability, sufficient for a child to become a victim of exploitation.

Isolation

either due to the absence of family members alongside the young person (in particular, those from North Africa) or in the context of a life lived exclusively within the family/community, with no outside contact other than in the context of the exploitation, generating a certain degree of distrust with regard to any adult or external institution and ignorance of his or her rights (in particular, amongst children from Romania, Bulgaria or the Former Yugoslavia)

Insecurity in terms of living conditions, in the home country and/or in France

The insecurity experienced can be:

related to the family

- orphaned child,
- no parental figures or structure providing affection,
- arranged marriage,
- placement in care homes, etc.

financial

- working from a very young age,
- street children,
- living in squats or shantytowns.

related to school attendance

- low or zero school attendance,
- illiterate,
- school drop-out.

administrative

- no original identity documents,
- forged documents or genuine documents with a false identity,
- certificate of filing of an asylum application under a false identity or with the wrong age.



Physical / sexual violence

targeting the minor (within the family or the couple).

Increased health risks

Physical and mental development disorders and high-risk behaviours (tobacco use, significant drug use, prescription medicines, early/unwanted pregnancies).

A certain degree of dependency on the perpetrators of the exploitation

material

Existence of a debt, a dowry, a place to live in a squat...

emotional

Affection for the family/host community/fellow countrymen and women.

Heightened frequency of travel between countries

encouraging school avoidance, no references, no oversight by institutions/associations.

Hyper-connectivity

and in an on-line environment offering no protection.

CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OR POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, OR THE CHILDREN (INCLUDING BABIES) OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ARE EXPLOITED OR AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION.

These minors have the right to full and entire recognition and to the exercise of all of the rights of the child set out in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in force in France since 6 September 1990. They must have access to ordinary law.

Re-establishing their fundamental rights is also the best way of foiling the criminal networks or individuals exploiting them, leading to the profits obtained thereby drying up; this also makes it possible to reduce the vulnerability of these young people in terms of the risk of human trafficking or of the risk of becoming victims again. Finally, this helps them rebuild their lives and obtain damages as compensation for the harm caused.

The combat to prevent the trafficking of minors also involves providing protection and support for children and identifying them, and all without discrimination.

In 2022, France became a "pathfinder country" in the context of Alliance 8.7, a global partnership committed to achieving sustainable development goal 8.7 established by the United Nations Member States by 2030. But the effective implementation of the measures set out in the context of the French National acceleration strategy for the elimination of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery is proving slow to take shape in certain areas.

RECRUITMENT METHODS

Operating methods vary depending on the profile of the child.

For unaccompanied minors, recruitment can take place in the country of origin with the promise of work, a better life or the ability to join a club, in particular via social media.

Recruitment can also take place upon arrival in France where certain criminal organisations take advantage of the situation in which these minors find themselves and their isolation to force them to "work" on their behalf: repayment of a debt linked to the journey, payment for a place in a squat, protection granted against other rival groups, repayment of stolen goods, payment to obtain administrative documents

Exploitation can also be based on family ties.

Children can be recruited directly from within the family (nuclear or wider) to provide income for the family or to help repay a debt owed by the parents.

In certain groups, the manipulation of community traditions is seen as a means of recruitment:

recruitment via marriage with the existence of a counter-dowry that the young girl must repay, in particular by committing crimes, blackmail linked to children left

behind with in-laws or a child minder in the country of origin. In other groups, recruitment can also take place via co-opting or "imitation" between minors themselves who can be attracted by a certain image of material success given out by peers and staged for social media. More experienced minors are then used to train younger ones in how to commit crimes.

Recruitment increasingly takes place on the Internet.

CONSEQUENCES AND SIGNS OF IDENTIFICATION

Several signs and consequences of trafficking make it possible to identify child victims, such as, for example:

*Traces of violence: injuries, burns, fractures, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.
School absenteeism, rejection, drop-out*

Sleep disorders, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress, depression, suicidal thoughts

Changes in behaviour: violent attitude, aggressive or impulsive behaviour, etc.

Addictions

*Isolation, avoidance, vagrancy
Handling of large amounts of money given the age of the child.*



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS

The sexual exploitation of minors is a criminal act generally perpetrated by an adult against an individual aged under 18. It constitutes a violation of the fundamental rights of the child.

On this point, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that "States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse".



EXAMPLES OF RESPONSES FROM THOSE PROVIDING PROTECTION

ADO SEXO, THE HELP VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND THOSE CLOSEST TO THEM

In order to combat the sexual exploitation of minors, the ACPE (Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants et les violences sexuelles) as put in place a structure known as "Ado Sexo" aimed at teenagers, their parents and professionals working with children and young people.

The "Ado Sexo" structure offers global support:

For educational and child protection establishments and for professionals potentially in contact with minors (teaching staff, psychologists, police officers, etc.) to help them identify situations of exploitation and provide support for victims.

For parents, to guide and support them in any legal measures they may undertake, signpost them towards specialist structures and facilitate discussions with the professionals who are supporting their children. Support groups are also organised to host conversations between parents.

For young people, to raise awareness or help them get out of situations of exploitation, through individual support provided by special female support workers to help them get out of the prostitution system. This takes place in the home, at a residence or at drop-in centres.



A FEW DEFINITIONS

Sexual exploitation of children for the purpose of prostitution: the child victim is forced to perform sex acts in exchange for a consideration which may or may not be financial. In many cases, this consideration is received by a third party, who may or may not be a friend or relative of the child.

Sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism: the child is the victim of exploitation with regard to the presence of tourists, travellers and visitors, foreign or domestic.

Sexual exploitation of children online: the child is the victim of exploitation via the use of new technologies and the internet.

The forms of exploitation can be cumulative, and it should be noted that child trafficking includes: forced criminality, forced labour and services, domestic slavery, sexual exploitation and prostitution, forced begging, organ harvesting.

The definition of the offence of human trafficking involving minors is set out in Article 225-4-1 II of the French Criminal Code.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS ESTABLISHED WHEN:

- *the child has been the victim of an act which prepares and facilitates his or her exploitation*
- *he or she has been recruited or transported or transferred or hosted or taken in*
- *and this act has been perpetrated in view of sexual exploitation or prostitution*

There is however no requirement to:

- *look for the methods used or the circumstances under which the facts have been perpetrated*
- *provide evidence of duress*
- *provide evidence of absence of consent*



EXAMPLES OF RESPONSES FROM THOSE PROVIDING PROTECTION

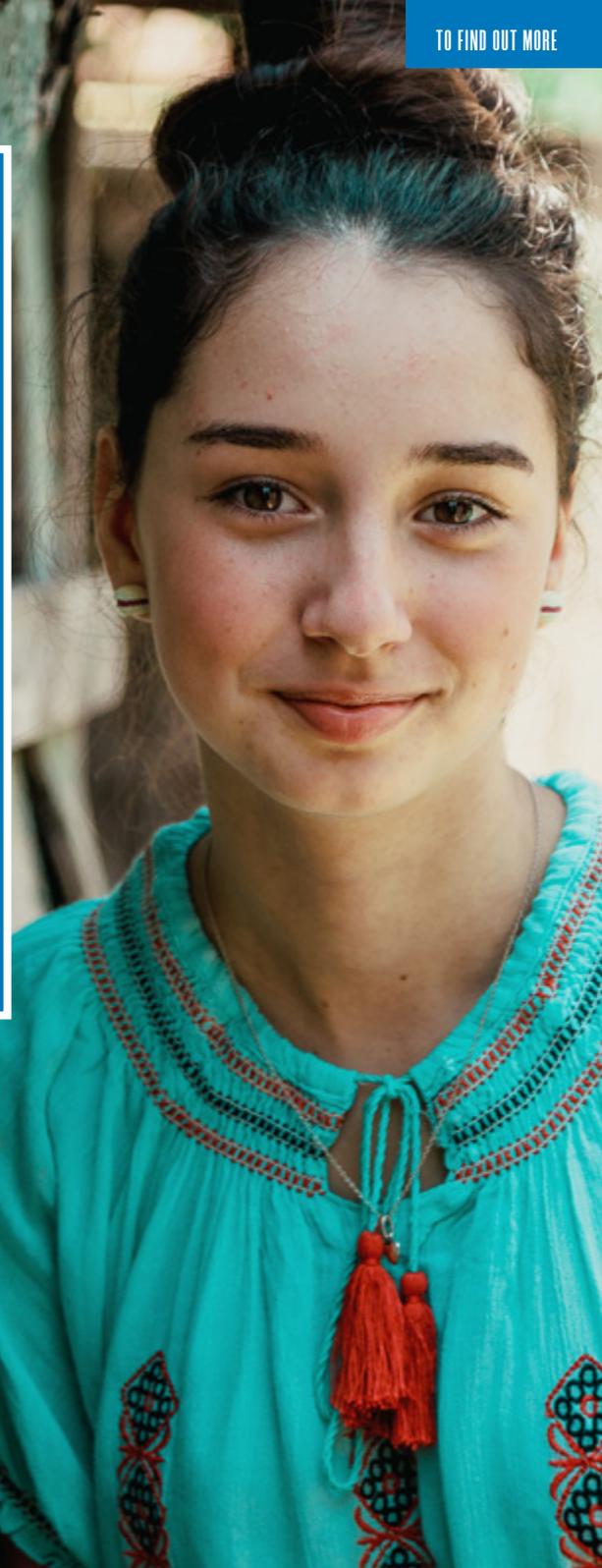
SUPPORT FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING PROVIDED BY HORS LA RUE

The association Hors La Rue works in the streets to help children out of reach of the ordinary child protection services.

The association works in a different way: help from a support worker, signposting toward care services, contact with the family courts and Youth Legal Protection department; in cases of danger, raising the alert and implementation of a protection plan.

Hors La Rue works mainly in the Ile de France region, with the focus on Paris and Seine Saint-Denis. The association also works on a national level through advocacy, training and feedback on experience.

The association has observed the following changes over time. In the 1980-1990s, most minors were coming from the Former Yugoslavia (street robberies, pick pockets). In the 2000s, they came from Romania, Bulgaria and Bosnia (theft of mobile phones from café terraces, burglaries, theft at ATMs). Since 2015, there has been an increasing number of unaccompanied minors coming in from North Africa (Morocco, Algeria), West Africa, Albania, Vietnam (theft in the street, sale of cigarettes or drugs, burglaries).



LIMITS ON THE PROTECTION OF MINORS COERCED INTO CRIME

The relevant institutions lack all knowledge of this form of exploitation

(police, courts, social services, medical) leading to a failure to identify these minors and the recognition of victim status.

Criminal prosecution and incarceration

of these minors for offences perpetrated in the context of their exploitation.

Failure by the minor himself or herself to acknowledge his or her victim status,

limiting acceptance of protection. The phenomenon of control and conflict of loyalties therefore frequently prevents the minors themselves from considering themselves as victims.

Shortage of specialist associations

on a local level, acting alongside this specific group.

The insufficient number of structures dedicated to providing a safe space for these minors, able to offer tailored support.

The Koutcha centre has recently opened its doors and can provide shelter for 6 child victims of trafficking (to be 12 in 2 years' time).

France's Satouk network also has some fifteen facilities (20 by late 2023), some of which have support professionals (psychologists, nurses, criminologists, specialist support workers, etc.).

Difficulties in terms of cooperation and the exchange of information on a Europe-wide level

for groups of minors who are nevertheless extremely mobile, moving from country to country.

The physical and mental health of the child victims

The lack of information sharing between stakeholders regarding child victims

Training must be provided for investigators, those working in shantytowns, support workers, teachers, judges, drugs services, etc.

HOW TO REACT TO DOUBTS OR REVELATIONS

In most cases, the minors do not consider themselves to be victims and are not aware of their status as victims unless they are provided with specific support and assistance. Minors who are victims benefit from educational assistance and protection in the context of the ordinary rules of law on the subject of child protection.

These minors must, as a matter of urgency, be taken to safety in a secure place in order to remove them from the grasp of the network and the perpetrator.

119

**24 hours a day,
7 days a week**

**France's national hotline
for children in danger**

A nation-wide phone number dedicated to the protection of children in danger or at risk.

Confidential freephone hotline

SOME ADVICE ON HOW TO REACT

Don't confront the potential perpetrator

Don't judge the child, victim of exploitation

Offer active listening to hear what the child has to say and establish a relationship built on trust

Let the child speak freely and avoid asking questions

Reassure the child and tell him that the violence he has experienced is prohibited

Tell the child not to feel ashamed about what he/she has lived through

Remind the child that it's not his/her fault

Contact specialist services and associations to provide the child with the best possible support

Alert the relevant authorities Cellule départementale de Recueil des Informations Préoccupantes (CRIP), French Public Prosecutor, police, Dial 119 (France's national hotline for children in danger).

When their family or entourage is concerned by the exploitation, the minors must be taken to safety in a secure place in order to remove them from the grasp of the network of perpetrators.

EXAMPLES OF RESPONSES FROM THOSE PROVIDING PROTECTION

THE SECURE AND REASSURING KOUTCHA CENTRE

welcomes minors who have been victims of trafficking. It can currently welcome up to 6 minors (aged between 13 and 18) presumed to be victims of human trafficking, whatever the form of exploitation experienced, having a connection to France via nationality or presence on national territory.





COMING TOGETHER TO PREVENT AND COMBAT EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Presentation of the Collective
"Ensemble contre la traite
des êtres humains"p. 93**

**Associations and members
of the Collectivep. 95**

PRESENTATION OF THE COLLECTIVE

“ENSEMBLE CONTRE LA TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS”

This is a network created to more effectively combat all forms of denial of human rights.

It was created by Secours Catholique in 2007 and its members are 28 French associations and federations of associations that are directly or indirectly involved with trafficking victims in France, in transit countries or in their home countries. Determined to combat the practice of treating people as goods, it pursues its objectives:

- **Raising the awareness of the general public about this complex issue**
- **Encouraging French, European and international political decision-makers to make a strong commitment to combat this form of criminality.**

It covers different types of trafficking, including trafficking for sexual exploitation, domestic slavery, forced labour, forced begging, forced crime, servile marriage, organs harvesting, etc.

ITS SPHERES OF ACTION

- **Management of groups at high-risk of trafficking**
- **Raising awareness among the general public, providing training for volunteers and professionals**
- **Providing support for victims (social, legal, accommodation, healthcare, employment, socialising, etc.)**
- **National and international networking**
- **Advocacy in France, Europe and worldwide to prompt changes in international texts and national laws to protect and help the victims, together with their application.**





© Xavier Schwebel
Secours Catholique – Caritas France

A number of the organisations that belong to this collective of French associations also have an international dimension, which is essential for combating this scourge.

In recent years, the Collective and its associations have made a substantial contribution to ensuring that human trafficking is included in the various action plans adopted by the French government.

- Human trafficking
- Child prostitution
- Vulnerability of migrants
- Measures in relation to a national plan to combat the sexual exploitation of minors
- Preparation of the strategy to prevent children's working conditions in the context of Alliance 8.7
- Forced labour
- Modern slavery

COORDINATION OF THE COLLECTIVE

Geneviève Colas

genevieve.colas@secours-catholique.org

+33 (0)6 71 00 69 90

www.contrelatraite.org

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

ACTION CATHOLIQUE DES FEMMES

www.
actioncatholiquedesfemmes.org

Promoting the place and dignity of women

AFJ **www.foyer-afj.fr**

Since 2000, the AFJ has been providing accommodation and support to adult women victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

In addition to providing a refuge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the AFJ offers multi-disciplinary support to women in need as well as help with the identification of victims.

The AFJ also takes part in meetings for the preparation of plans for the combat of human trafficking and leads awareness-raising activities focusing on the issue of human trafficking.

Contact
Yolanda Gutierrez
+33 (0)7 60 73 26 26
servicesocial.afj@gmail.com

AGIR CONTRE LA PROSTITUTION DES ENFANTS ET LES VIOLENCES SEXUELLES (ACPE) **www.acpefrance.fr**

For more than thirty years, the ACPE has been fighting the sexual exploitation of children, whether in the form of child prostitution, the pimping of children, trafficking in children, sexual violence against children or the corruption of minors.

To carry out this mission, the ACPE takes part in government plans and parliamentary work in order to:

Summarise malfunctions and make recommendations,

appear as a civil plaintiff in legal proceedings emblematic of the phenomenon of the sexual exploitation of minors,

Provide a range of professionals (in child protection, justice, State education, social services, etc.) with training on this subject and support victims and their friends and family thanks to its “AdoSexo” network.

This support, legal and/or psychological and educational, is crucial to enable an exit from the system and reconstruction, which can be envisaged in particular thanks to new start stays.

During these stays, sport becomes a fundamental element: through equine therapy, boxing, etc.

The victim being looked after then finds a way of regulating emotions and remedying their dissociation.

Contact
Sophie Antoine - +33 (0)1 40 26 91 51
juridique@acpe-asso.org

AGIR ENSEMBLE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME **www.aedh.org**

To protect the victims of trafficking and defend their rights.

AMICALE DU NID

www.amicaledunid.org

www.jenesuispasavendre.org

Founded in 1946, present in 16 départements in France, and with over 250 employees, l'Amicale du Nid is a secular association which defends the abolition of the prostitution system.

L'Amicale du Nid considers that prostitution is incompatible with respect for human dignity and gender equality, and that the human body cannot be treated as goods.

Its actions form part of a continuum: prevention, awareness-raising, training (a training body with QUALIOPI certification – in particular, training relating to human trafficking for sex work, child prostitution), outreach in public spaces and online, hosting, global social support (socio-educational, legal, socio-professional insertion, pathways out of prostitution, etc), a specific support package dedicated to minors caught up in prostitution, providing a home and supported living (over 500 places), advocacy.

Contact

+33 (0)1 44 52 56 40

contact@adn-asso.org

SALVATION ARMY

www.armeedusalut.fr

The Salvation Army undertakes to serve all those who are in need, without discrimination or harassment based on age, race, colour, religion, gender, national origin, marital status, disability, citizenship or any other characteristic in connection with its capacity to provide support.

It seeks to manage, raise awareness, train and share resources.

The Salvation Army is a presence alongside the current victims of exploitation, seeking to provide a listening ear, an unconditional welcome, support and a presence.

The Salvation Army offers global support to survivors of human trafficking: other than immediate needs such as a place to sleep, food and clothing.

The Salvation Army provides support to survivors with applications for paperwork, with the organisation of their day-to-day lives and with the construction of a system of social inclusion.

Unconditional acceptance is one of the values of the Salvation Army.

Relationship building, listening and mutual respect are essential tools. The quality of the commitment, support and the promise made are guarantees of a lasting and reliable result.

Contact

+33 (0)1 43 62 25 00

trafic humain.france@armeedusalut.fr

armeedusalut.fr

Emmanuela Merola

emmanuela_m@tutanota.com

ASSOCIATION POUR LA RÉADAPTATION SOCIALE

www.ars13.org

Providing a welcome for minors and young adults having broken off contact with their families and with society, in particular, young victims of trafficking, in order to help them rebuild their lives and pursue their projects.

AUX CAPTIFS, LA LIBÉRATION

www.captifs.fr

For 40 years now, the association *Aux captifs, la libération* has been meeting with and supporting individuals in great difficulty and in particular victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Paris, elsewhere in France and on the internet.

During rounds in the street and on the internet, employees and volunteers act to create a no-ties meeting with these individuals trapped in their situations. These meetings take place with "bare hands" so as to encourage one-to-one relationships. When our branches are open, we offer respite time and the opportunity for revitalisation. These people can then get involved in global support with putting together a new project for a future life, with the help of a social worker.

Contact:

Gilles Badin - +33 (0)1 49 23 89 90
g.badin@captifs.fr

COMITÉ CONTRE L'ESCLAVAGE MODERNE (CCEM)

www.esclavagemoderne.org

A French National Association founded in 1994, the Committee for the Prevention of Modern Slavery (CCEM) leads a daily combat against all forms of slavery, servitude and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of exploitation in the workplace.

To do this, the Committee refers to Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states

"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms".

The CCEM has provided support to more than 1,000 people, mostly women and girls but also men, victims of human trafficking for financial purposes in the sectors of domestic work, personal services, construction, catering, retail, handcrafts, small business and farming. The association provides them with global support, both psycho-social, legal and administrative, focusing above all on providing shelter, protection and defence resources to victims.

These situations, encountered in all socio-economic groups, socially-deprived suburbs, rural areas, wealthy neighbourhoods as well as diplomatic representations or during major sporting events, continue to be generally disregarded by public opinion. This is why the CCEM also places emphasis on providing training for professionals, raising public awareness, expertise and advocacy in order to develop and apply national and European legislation.

Contact:

info@ccem.org

+33 (0)1 44 52 88 90

**COMITÉ PROTESTANT
ÉVANGÉLIQUE POUR LA
DIGNITÉ HUMAINE (CPDH)**

www.cpdh.org

The Comité Protestant évangélique pour la Dignité Humaine seeks to promote respect for human dignity, for the defence and protection of the rights of the child, of women and of people more generally.

"Excellence, friendship and respect" are the three key values of the Olympic movement. The CPDH's charter of values states that "each human being must be respected, served and not exploited". It is this respect for human dignity which leads the association to commit, firstly, to advocating against human trafficking with the Ensemble contre la traite and European Freedom Network groups, in particular, regarding pornography and prostitution, gestational surrogacy and on the subject of the European Directives on trafficking and the duty of care. The CPDH also raises the awareness of the general public surrounding situations of exploitation in schools and communities, via the creation of the events "Un Dimanche contre la traite" and the "Marche pour la Liberté" with A21.

Contact

Coralie Diebold
+33 (0)3 67 07 85 39
contact@cpdh.org,

**CONGRÉGATION NOTRE
DAME DE CHARITÉ DU BON
PASTEUR**

www.bonpasteur.com

We are committed to: Working tirelessly to help women and children, particularly those who have become the victims of trafficking, forced into emigration and oppressed by crushing poverty. Supporting projects to help promote economic justice, face up to unfair systems and taking a "collective position" whenever necessary. Sisters and mission partners are active on a local, national and international level in 68 different countries.

Contact

Stefania Aceti, +33 (0)7 68 62 23 80
ndcbpcomm@gmail.com

**CONSEIL FRANÇAIS DES
ASSOCIATIONS POUR
LES DROITS DE L'ENFANT
(COFRADE)**

www.cofrade.fr

Protecting children from human trafficking, dismantling trafficking networks and eradicating all forms of child exploitation are vital combats in all countries, on all levels.

Contact

Arthur Melon - +33 (0)9 77 38 07 13
contact@cofrade.org

ECPAT FRANCE

www.ecpat-france.fr

ECPAT France is tasked with combating the sexual exploitation of children in all forms and, in particular, the sexual exploitation of children in the context of tourism and travel, online, in the context of prostitution and through early marriage.

These types of sexual exploitation can fall within the context of trafficking when associated with an act of preparation, i.e. the recruitment, transportation, transfer, housing or hosting of the child victim.

ECPAT France supports projects for the prevention of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and the protection of victims and survivors, in cooperation with local stakeholders and in reinforcement of national civil society, in France and abroad.

For example, ECPAT France has developed the "Don't Pay With Your Life" programme in order to reach out to young Nigerian girls who have become victims of trafficking in France and wish to talk about their exploitation to their peers; identifying departures and recruitment via criminal trafficking networks in Nigeria and offering victims socio-economic alternatives.

In France, ECPAT has a presence in Calais staffed by multi-disciplinary teams, working in the street and reaching out to children to guarantee Unaccompanied Minors have access to their rights and to identify and support child victims of trafficking at the UK border. ECPAT France also has local teams in Madagascar and Burkina Faso which support programmes designed to combat the sexual exploitation of girls and boys. For example, in West Africa, ECPAT is running a "protected mobility" programme aimed at ensuring access to high quality protection services for young migrants who are highly exposed to trafficking in the region.

Contact:

Guillemette Vuillard
+33 (0)6 63 01 55 95
gvuillard@ecpat-france.org

**ESPOIR-CFDJ
STREET CHILDREN
DEPARTMENT**

The combat against human trafficking also involves making an active commitment to fighting to ensure respect for the supreme interest of the child and for the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**FÉDÉRATION DES ACTEURS
DE LA SOLIDARITÉ (FAS)
www.federationsolidarite.org**

As a non-specialist network combating exclusion, the Federation promotes social action, opens spaces for conversations between all stakeholders from the social sector, raises awareness among the general public and decision-makers in relation to situations entailing exclusion, observes and analyses poverty, insertion and social action.

**FÉDÉRATION DE L'ENTRAIDE
PROTESTANTE (FEP)
www.fep.asso.fr**

The Fédération de l'Entraide Protestante brings together hundreds of associations working to help those excluded from society, those suffering or those in situations of serious weakness.

**FONDATION JEAN ET JEANNE
SCELLES
www.fondationscelles.org**

Combating trafficking for the purpose of prostitution through documentary resources, information, contrasting and raising awareness among public and social stakeholders.

**HORS LA RUE
www.horslarue.org**

Hors la Rue works alongside foreign minors in danger in the Paris region.

Supporting the most vulnerable children and teenagers, those who are the least likely to seek out help, through daily rounds in the streets and via a daycare centre.

Advising on the ordinary rules of law governing child protection, minors in situations of exploitation and victims of human trafficking.

Contact:

Léa Loth - +33 (0)1 41 58 14 65
lea.loth@horslarue.org
contact@horslarue.org

**JUSTICE ET PAIX FRANCE
www.justice-paix.cef.fr**

Trafficking in human beings is a violation of human dignity and a scourge to be fought without respite.

KOUTCHA

www.koutcha.org

Koutcha focuses on understanding, providing information to, assessing and protecting minors and young adults who are victims of human trafficking.

The association has opened a safe and secure centre which currently has capacity for up to 6 minors (aged between 13 and 18) presumed to be victims of human trafficking, whatever the form of exploitation experienced, having a connection to France via nationality or presence on national territory. This centre holds dual certification (PJJ/ASE) and forms part of the French government plan for combating human trafficking.

The association has also created **the Satouk national network** which aims to propose geographically distant placements and customised support for minors who have been victims of human trafficking through child protection structures with a wide range of hosting methods.

Contact

contact@koutcha.org

LA CIMADE

www.lacimade.org

La Cimade's mission consists of receiving, guiding and defending

foreign nationals. One of its main actions consists of receiving, guiding and defending foreign nationals faced with administrative difficulties linked to the right to remain or asylum and who are sometimes victims of human trafficking.

Contact

+33 (0)1 44 18 60 50

infos@lacimade.org

LA VOIX DE L'ENFANT

www.lavoixdelenfant.org

La Voix De l'Enfant is a federation of 80 associations active in 80 pays including France and on an international level. Its aim is to listen to and defend any child in distress, anytime, anywhere. Through its member associations and the team at head office, it carries out actions aimed at protecting all of the rights of the child: education, health, culture, sport, protection from violence, etc.

Contact

+33 (0)1 56 96 03 00

info@lavoixdelenfant.org

LES CHAMPS DE BOOZ

www.champsdebooz.fr

Providing a welcome and monitoring lone female asylum seekers in the Ile de France region as a preventive measure due to their particular vulnerability with regard to trafficking.

Contact

secretairebooz@gmail.com

MOUVEMENT DU NID

www.mouvementdunid.org

Le Mouvement du Nid – France is a registered charity acting to provide support for people involved in prostitution.

With a presence throughout France, Le Mouvement du Nid is both an association active in the field and a social movement: it calls for political and cultural action by citizens against the system of prostitution and all kinds of violence against women. The association carries out primary and secondary preventive actions, provides global social support and offers training for professionals.

Contact

+33 (0)1 42 70 92 40

nidnational@mouvementdunid.org

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE CONTRE L'ESCLAVAGE MODERNE (OICEM)

www.oicem.org

Providing support each day to children, women and men who are victims of human trafficking, helping them to rebuild their lives with legal assistance, socio-educational support and psychological support.

PLANÈTE ENFANTS & DÉVELOPPEMENT

<https://planete-eed.org/>

Planète Enfants & Développement is an association promoting international cooperation founded in 1984, active in Asia and Africa. Its goal is to ensure equal opportunities for all children, from the very earliest stage.

The organisation acts on a daily basis to offer those children most at risk a protective, stable and stimulating environment, free from violence, and the conditions necessary to guarantee their development and fulfilment.

A genuine catalyst for change, Planète Enfants & Développement provides families, teachers, local associations and public authorities with the resources necessary to bring up children in a better world.

The association works closely with local communities and stakeholders to guarantee the relevance of the projects implemented and their impact.

Committed to combating all forms of violence, the association develops projects for the management and treatment of children and women who have become victims of exploitation or trafficking in human beings.

For example, in Nepal, the association provides psycho-social discussion options and well-being activities to young women caught up in prostitution networks, with the aim of helping them to express themselves and regain confidence.

Contact

Sylvie Morin-Miot
+33 (0)1 53 34 86 32
sylvie.morin-miot@planete-eed.org

SOS ESCLAVES

www.sos-esclaves.com

Founded in 2007, the association SOS-Esclaves helps victims of domestic exploitation.

The association specialises in particular in providing legal and social support, the objective being, after having validated the individual's status as a victim, to help him or her become a citizen:

The association provides support from the initial filing of a complaint up to the handing down of the verdict and helps victims obtain rejoin society through administrative measures (obtaining residency permits) and professionally.

The association also sets up procedures for access to healthcare (information on maintaining health and hygiene).

Contact

Anick Fougeroux
+33 (0)6 14 98 44 65
Catherine Le Moël
+33 (0)6 40 12 21 08
contact@sos-esclaves.com
sosesclaves@gmail.com

SECOURS CATHOLIQUE - CARITAS FRANCE

www.secours-catholique.org

Coordinator of the "Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains" Collective. The organisation founded and coordinates the "Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains" Collective.

Combating trafficking in human beings means breaking the vicious circle powered by poverty which maintains this phenomenon.

This involves providing information, listening to victims, reporting, taking action, providing training, advocacy, work via networks, together, on a local and global level.

Sport, art and culture are just some of the ways to ensure the inclusion of those who are vulnerable or caught up in human trafficking.

Contact

Geneviève Colas
+33 (0)6 71 00 69 90
genevieve.colas@secours-catholique.org

MEMBERS OF THE COLLECTIVE

INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE CAMPAIGN

Geneviève Colas

Coordinator of the

"Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains"
Collective **Secours Catholique - Caritas France**

Armelle Le Bigot-Macaux,

Cofrade and ACPE

Catherine Le Moël, **ACPE and SOS Esclaves**

Sophie Antoine, **ACPE**

Faustine Douillard, **AFJ**

Lili Boutet, **AFJ**

Yolanda Gutierrez, **AFJ**

Louise Poelaert, **AFJ**

Gilles Badin, **Aux captifs, la libération**

Anna Billard, **Amicale du Nid**

Delphine Jarraud, **Amicale du Nid**

Chaimae Bel Ayachi, **Amicale du Nid**

Iyad Khaski, **Amicale du Nid**

Emmanuela Morela, **Armée du Salut**

Guillemette Vuillard, **ECPAT France**

Mona Chamass, **CCEM**

Roxane Ouadghiri Hassani, **CCEM**

Laila Rahaoui, **CCEM**

Coralie Diebold, **CPDH**

Guillaume Lardanchet, **Hors la rue**

Gauthier Berenfeld, **Hors la rue**

Julie Jardin, **Hors la rue**

Léa Loth, **Hors la rue**

Manon Danger, **Hors la rue**

Violaine Husson, **La Cimade**

Sabrina Himeur, **La Voix de l'Enfant**

Clémentine Amiot, **La Voix de l'Enfant**

Patricia Montes, **La Voix de l'enfant**

Benoît Kermogrant, **Mouvement du Nid**

Sylvie Morin-Miot,

Planète Enfants & Développement

Daniel Druesne

Secours Catholique - Caritas France

Marie Elisabeth Lafaille

Secours Catholique - Caritas France

CREDITS

Graphic design

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Narrativ / Nicolas Bezin

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- En toute
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CONTACT

Geneviève Colas **+33 6 71 00 69 90**

genevieve.colas@secours-catholique.org

www.contrelatraite.org

AFJ, Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants, Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme, Amicale du Nid, Armée du Salut, Association pour la Réadaptation Sociale, Aux captifs la libération, Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne, Comité Protestant évangélique pour la Dignité Humaine, Congrégation Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur, Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l'Enfant, ECPAT France, Fédération des Acteurs de la solidarité (FAS), Fédération de l'Entraide Protestante, Espoir CFDJ-Service Jeunes errants, Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles, Hors la rue, Justice et Paix France, Koutcha, La Cimade, La Voix De l'Enfant, Les Champs de Booz, Mouvement du Nid, Organisation Internationale Contre l'Esclavage Moderne, Planète Enfants & Développement, SOS Esclaves, Secours Catholique-Caritas France which acts as coordinator for the Collective.

Under the coordination of:



www.secours-catholique.org

With the support of:



www.cncdh.fr

M Mission
I interministérielle
P pour la protection
R des femmes contre les violences
O et la lutte
F contre la traite des êtres humains.

Contact : miprof@miprof.gouv.fr