

# Child Trafficking For Sexual Exploitation

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# ECPAT UK

- End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking
- Network in over 70 countries
- Coalition of 8 UK Charities
- Research, Campaigning, Training



## Definition – Human Trafficking

- Protocol to the 2000 UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo)
- Recruitment and transportation
- Using force/deception or coercion
- For purposes of exploitation
- Child is under 18



# How is smuggling different to trafficking?

- Trafficking is carried out with use of coercion/deception whereas smuggling is not
- Trafficking can lead to subsequent exploitation of individual whereas with smuggler, service ends on arrival into country.
- Entry into country can be both legal & illegal in trafficking whereas in smuggling it is always illegal
- Smuggling crosses international borders, trafficking can also cross national and be within one country.



## Working definition

- The movement of children for the purpose of exploitation



# Legislation

- The Asylum & Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
- Children Act 1989/2004



# Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004

- Trafficking for exploitation
- Includes:
  - Organ removals
  - Forced labour
  - Domestic servitude
  - Sexual exploitation
- Includes children and young people
- NO convictions



# Sexual Offences Act 2003

- Sec 57/58/59 = Trafficking into, within & out of the UK
- Abuse of children through prostitution & pornography (18<)





# Children Act 1989/2004

- S17 – Children in need
- S20 – Voluntary Accommodation
- S47 – Child protection investigation
- S67 – Private Fostering



## Scale of the problem

- Home Office Report July 2007
- 56% of 330 reported trafficked children go missing without a trace
- Those found there is suspicion or evidence of abuse in time were gone
- Unsupervised accommodation



# Case

## “Victoria” Sheffield

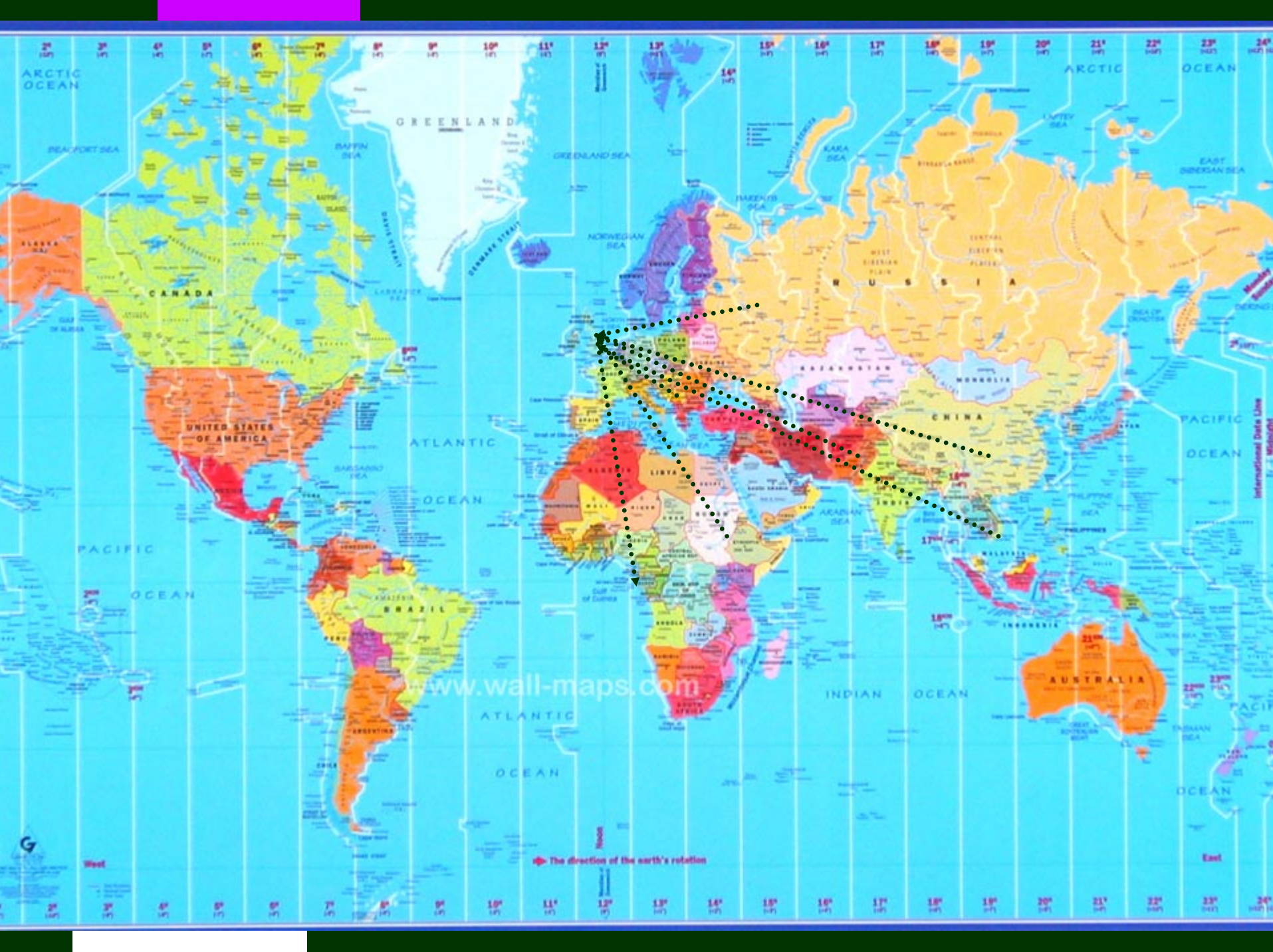
- Eastern European girl -15 years
- Lured to Britain to “sell ice cream”
- Sold into sexual exploitation
- Run away from a pub
- Testified against traffickers
- Traffickers jailed for 7 – 18 years



# Government initiatives

- UK Human Trafficking Centre -Sheffield
- CEOP
- Working Together to Safeguard children who may have been trafficked
- UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking (2007)
- Council of Europe Convention on Actions Against Trafficking in Human-beings





www.wall-maps.com

→ The direction of the earth's rotation

# Why does it happen?

- Poverty
- Social exclusion
- Money
- Demand
- Supply
- “A Better Life”



# How does it happen?

- Criminal gangs
- “Friendly adults” - e.g. boyfriends
- Family members



# What happens to trafficked children in the UK?

- Sexual exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Forced labour/gardeners
- Benefit fraud
- Illegal adoptions
- Street crime
- Forced marriages





# Child Sexual Exploitation

- Sexual abuse common in many trafficking situations. Rape used as a form of control
- Principal victims are girls from East/West Africa & Eastern Europe
- Victims tend to be kept locked up or put in massage parlours/saunas
- Frequently abandoned when becoming pregnant



# Control mechanisms

*“Its like their fingers were in your brain. Your heart jumps when you see them” Betty (19)*



# Control Mechanisms

- Violence
- Remove identity documents
- Threats of reporting to authorities
- Social/physical isolation
- Debt bondage
- Financial and emotional dependence
- Voodoo - traditional beliefs



# Direct Consequences

- Physical and sexual abuse
- Neglect, emotional abuse
- STI's; general health problems
- Pregnancy, abortion
- Post-traumatic stress disorder



# Indirect Consequences

- Loss of trust - anti-social behaviour
- Loss of self confidence - cannot 'fit' into society
- Can develop 'dependent' relationship with trafficker
- Can't go home - can't stay in UK



Thank you

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