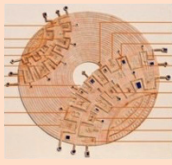
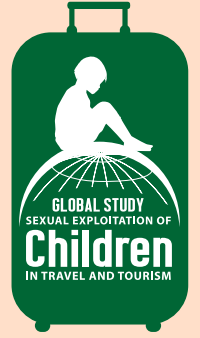


GLOBAL STUDY ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC REPORT

TURKEY

2015



ÇTCS MÜCADELE AĞI

ÇOCUKLARA YÖNELİK TİCARİ CİNSEL SÖMÜRÜYLE MÜCADELE AĞI



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The research was conducted in the framework of the Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. More information on the Global Study can be found on www.globalstudysectt.org

The views expressed in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the donors.

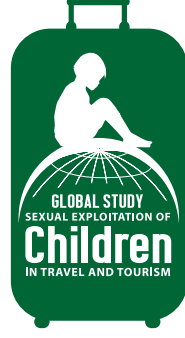
October 2015

(c) International Children's Center (ICC) jointly with Defence for Children - ECPAT Netherlands

Design by: QUO, Bangkok

The Global Study has been made possible with the financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands through Defence for Children - ECPAT Netherlands.



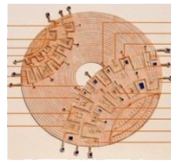


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ACRONYMS

CMC or ÇİM	Child Monitoring Centre
CODE	Code of Conduct
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CSO	Civil Society Organization
SECTT	Child Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
GNAT or TBMM	Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ICC	International Children's Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organisation of Migration
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
TÜRSAB	Turkish Union of Travel Agencies
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization

GLOSSARY

This section is prepared using following ECPAT International publications:

- Combating Child Sex Tourism: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. (2008). ECPAT International. Retrieved from http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf
- Questions and Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: An Information Booklet. (2008). ECPAT International. Retrieved from http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/faq_eng_2008.pdf

Child prostitution is the act of using the child for sexual activities in exchange for remuneration or another form of retribution regardless of whether these are offered to the child or a third person. It is sexual use of the child as a result of an agreement with an intermediary or the child himself/herself. The act may involve meeting some essential needs of the child, giving pocket money or doing favour in terms of school grades.

Child pornography is “any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child, the dominant characteristic of which is depiction for a sexual purpose” (Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2002). Art. 2. Retrieved from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>) In this sense child pornography includes depicting a child visually as engaged in explicit sexual conduct or exhibiting a child’s sexual organs. Child pornography can be through photography, audio-visual channels. Its dissemination may be through books, films mobile phones, videos or computer disks. Children involved in pornography may be exploited this way by coercion, abduction or without being conscious of it. This form of exploitation covers accomplices, those who distribute, sell and watch such materials or act as intermediaries in these activities. It is found that perpetrators are often persons close to children involved.

Child trafficking for sexual purposes covers all acts related to sexually motivated child trafficking; abduction or coercion of for purposes of sexual exploitation including debt bondage or abusing trust.

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is a form of commercial sexual exploitation of

children committed by adults who travel from one place to another for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with children. It may take place within the country of the offender or another country.

Child marriage is defined as marital union, whether officially or not, of two persons at least one of whom is under age 18.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children: Commercial sexual exploitation of children is to use children for sexual purposes in return for cash, property or in kind favours that may also involve third parties.

Code of conduct: The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (hereinafter the Code) comprises six criteria. Minimum standards or “Rules” related to the realization of each of these criteria were approved in the annual general meeting of the organization and adopted as a measure of targets to be attained within a given time frame. Since the status and means of signatories differ from each other the feasibility of minimum standards also differs. Hence, minimum standards should be regarded as implementation targets rather than objectives to be absolutely reached within a given time period. As such, minimum standards serve, on the one hand, as objectives, and as indicator of the process of regular evaluation on the other.

With the Code, the signatory is expected to:

1. Develop a policy and procedures against commercial sexual exploitation of children
2. Train employees in both origin and destination on the rights of the child, prevention of child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, and how to report suspected cases
3. Include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and a zero tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children
4. Provide information to travellers on the rights of the child, prevention of child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, and how to report suspected cases
5. Support, collaborate, engage stakeholders in preventing sexual abuse of children
6. Report annually on your implementation of the Code.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*"There is a need to raise awareness. People have to know that children do not do it on their own will"
(Academician, Female, Istanbul)*

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is one of the most heinous forms of child rights violations in the world including in Turkey. While, in Turkey, national and local reports and studies mostly focus on sexual abuse of children, findings related to commercial sexual exploitation of children are extremely limited. There is almost no publication on this issue that contains evidence based information with the exception of few recent doctoral dissertations, reports by civil society organizations submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, a study conducted by the ECPAT International and Yeniden Saglik Association in 2006 and annual rights monitoring reports of the Human Rights Association. One reason for this scarcity is the fact that what CSEC consists of is not understood well and that the offence mostly takes the form of an underground activity committed by criminal enterprises difficult to spot.

CSEC is a crime committed against the child. It is a crime not only against the sexual integrity of the child but also an assault to all rights of the child and treats the child as a commodity, it is a form of slavery, hence a crime against humanity. Commercial sexual exploitation of children confronts us in various forms. It includes child pornography, child marriages, child prostitution, trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel.

This report explores only one form of CSEC in Turkey as a contribution to a global study conducted by ECPAT International and its members all over the world.

Sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel is a manifestation of CSEC when a person traveling from his place of habitual residence, region or country to another and exploit children sexually. There may be all kinds of people from various sections of society who are engaged in this act. They may be married or single, male or female, prosperous or limited budget tourists. There are also cases when persons are involved in

this in their own areas upon some specific situations/ occasions. Persons involved often defend themselves by claiming that communities accept such acts and they actually contribute materially to the economy of communities concerned. Transportation and tourism agencies as well as boarding sector may also be involved in commercial sexual exploitation of children.

There are over 26 million children, including over one million Syrian refugee children, in Turkey constituting around 35% of country's total population. There is some progress in legislative initiatives to adopt, in the Turkish legal system, fundamental documents such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). However, there are no special arrangements geared to preventing commercial sexual exploitation in tourism and travel and ensuring victims' access to justice and remedial support. It is safe to say that the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism prepared by the Ethics and Social Responsibility Section of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) with the contribution of Turkey, and activities of World Tourism Network on Child Protection are not known and not adopted by the sector leaders in Turkey. For instance, Turkey has yet to designate a communication officer in charge of ethics issues that the UNWTO expects from each country and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism which is available in Turkish on the website of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) does not exist in the website of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism or the tourism sector leaders.

Yet, according to the UNWTO data available, Turkey ranked 6th with 38 million tourists in 2013 in the list of most visited countries in the world. Likewise, according to the Travel Agencies Union of Turkey (TÜRSAB), the number of Turkish citizens visiting other countries reached 8,363,966 in 2014. As to domestic tourism, 11,181,000 citizens visited other parts of the country in 2014. Given such dense tourist traffic at both national and international levels, Turkey faces the risk of being

both a target and source country for sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel. News stories in the media and national/international reports suggest that there are cases of sexual exploitation of children in domestic and international travels that Turkish citizens are involved while there is still no in-depth study or meaningful statistics on the prevalence of the problem, related risk factors, circumstances under which sex driven tourism takes place and actors involved.

For this reason, the Network against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Network against CSEC) with its members, the International Children's Center, Public Health Specialists' Association, and Hacettepe University Institute of Public Health with the support of ECPAT International and ECPAT Netherlands joined

forces to investigate sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel in Turkey by collecting information in this regard from many stakeholders including persons working in tourism and travel industry, care and law practitioners along with midlevel administrators at the government and international agencies to present a comprehensive situation analysis.

By employing various methods, answers were sought to the following questions: Which group of children are exposed to sexual exploitation in tourism and travel? What are the factors that make these children vulnerable? Who are engaged in and organize commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel? What measures need to be adopted in order to effectively combat this form of exploitation in travel and tourism?

METHODOLOGY

Three distinct methods were used to investigate aforementioned questions. The first method was a desktop study to understand the existing overall situation through available sources of information including comparative legal information, documents of international monitoring bodies, NGO reports, and news stories documenting cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Analysis of these resources contributed to the formulation of suggestions of solution to the problem and of qualitative and quantitative surveys used to further evaluate the issue.

The second method was a qualitative survey that used a key stakeholder interviews through a "snowball sampling" approach to identify persons who had either knowledge or experience or expertise or both to provide key information about the issue. The objective was to obtain demographic profiles of child victims of sexual exploitation in tourism and travel, to identify factors leading to this form of exploitation and to find out channels in which sexual exploitation takes place relatively more often. By using this method, interviews were conducted with persons working in tourism and travel industry, care and law practitioners along with midlevel administrators at the government and international agencies. Key stakeholder interviews took place in İstanbul and in Antalya as tourism hotspots with highest numbers of tourists visiting, in Ankara as the administrative capital producing central level

policies to combat child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, and in Şanlıurfa along the Syrian border, given the presence of Syrian refugee children as a result of on-going conflict in Syria. Professionals and other persons to be interviewed were identified at the outset in each province. The target was to reach others through initial interviews with these persons. In-depth interview technique was employed through separate standardized data collection forms based on the line of work they are doing.

Third method was a quantitative survey. Professionals in the sector of travel and tourism are actually the main actors having the potential to play an active and effective role in combatting commercial sexual exploitation of children in this sector. They may be either witnesses and preventers or facilitators in an emerging new case in this form of exploitation. It is therefore important to ensure that they are sufficiently and correctly informed about violations that children may face and relevant measures to be taken. Therefore, in order to assess the level of information and awareness as a part of situation analysis, a questionnaire was applied to 79 freshmen and sophomore students at the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management of Social Sciences College of Hacettepe University. The school has 241 students in total and thus 32.8% of these students were covered. The enrolment of students to secondary education, their absence due to internship and non-

attendance were the factors limiting coverage. The questionnaire contained questions formulated to find out students' level of information and opinions about sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel. Questionnaires were administered under observance.

A Case of sexual exploitation of children in Africa by a Turkish citizen

A Turkish citizen was caught and arrested in Uganda for abducting over 50 female children for sex parties in 2012. The person was caught with pornographic videos of young girls engaged in sexual acts. According to available information, the same perpetrator was claimed to have had sexual intercourse with a 15 years old Kenyan girl, whose case were brought before the court in Kenya. The Special Investigation Unit in Uganda was first alerted by activities of the person concerned in his Facebook page. He uploaded there naked photographs of a young girl and himself boasting about his handle of such cases by skirting around judicial processes moving from one country to another. ('Turkish paedophile re-arrested', 2012)

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel is perpetrated by Turkish citizens in Turkey and abroad, yet there is little policy initiatives to address gaps on the way to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The strategic documents of relevant ministries – Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Health – as well as the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) accepts sexual abuse as a problem and include provisions on prevention and post-abuse protection. However, the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children is not addressed neither in the aforementioned strategic plans nor in 2023 Tourism Strategic Plan.

The absence of any comprehensive study on the issue as well as no statistics constitute obstacles to steps that can be taken for feasible and effective solutions.

The present report clearly shows that there are cases in Turkey and abroad demonstrating the existence of commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel as well as in other areas.

In combating CSEC, the sector of tourism and travel has its responsibilities along with Ministries of Culture and Tourism, Health, Family and Social Policies and National Education

While the relevant legislation has protective and preventive measures in relation to child abuse in general, both the definition of and measures related to commercial sexual exploitation of children are still insufficient. During interviews respondents underlined that combat against commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel should not rest with a single institution or ministry but jointly addressed by all relevant ministries as well as industry leaders such as TÜRSAB. A judicial expert interviewed in Ankara pointed the responsibility to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture who should be introducing ethical practices to the sector. The judge also added that sector-based associations such as TÜRSAB may undertake the function of training and supervision.

There is need to improve treatment and rehabilitation centres of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies

In an interview conducted with a representative of a LGBTI association in İstanbul, it was stressed that the issue should not be addressed from the stance of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, that there is need to improve rehabilitation efforts and challenge existing towards violence in cases of use of children in prostitution. The Child Rights National Strategy and Action Plan (2013-2017) under the auspices of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies includes initiatives to be taken for the protection and rehabilitation of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children. However, the action plan has not been implemented yet. One of the interviewee who is judicial clerk, an expert in child abuse issues and a CSO volunteer believes that when it is implemented, it will be possible to take steps forward in ensuring the improvement and effective functioning of treatment and rehabilitation centres.

There must be coordination between relevant institutions in combating CSEC

The 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) states that services supporting the personal and social development of children in need of protection will be delivered through the coordinated functioning of child protection and judiciary; and with protective mechanisms and practices that also include risk monitoring and early

warning systems. The study, however, shows that there are difficulties faced in ensuring coordination between sectors. While respective sectors try to do their best in protecting children from commercial and sexual exploitation and giving rehabilitation services to victimized children, they still lack a holistic approach at national level. It is observed that efforts and initiatives to prevent abuse are not well coordinated. During interviews with volunteers from civil society organizations of the Roma it is suggested that schools and public health centres should work together with social workers in a coordinated manner. Community leaders too must take active part in these initiatives.

Gaps in legislation must be filled and protective and preventive measures must be strengthened

The insufficiency of mentioned strategic documents makes it difficult to establish a solid political will to cover gaps in legislation. Given the diversified forms of sexual exploitation as well as its sectors and channels, better organized work on the part of perpetrators and emergence of detailed international legislation on the issue, domestic legislation has fallen short of protecting children and preventing offences.

During interviews in İstanbul, a CSO worker stressed the need for relevant legislative arrangements, adding that even the demand for such a crime must be penalized.

“The penalty must be imposed upon the client too regardless of the consent of the child or existence of a middleman.” (LGBT CSO volunteer)

This line of thinking attests that commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel emerges as a result of supply and demand dynamics. Hence, penalizing the demand side is considered effective in curbing the supply. Similar views were raised also by a faculty staff (health sciences) in Ankara and a person in İstanbul who has been living as sex worker for the last 1.5 years.

Legislative reform, strict execution of laws through monitoring of their implementation and awareness raising initiatives for tourists were suggested during interviews in Antalya with civil society volunteers to prevent the sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel. It is added that education sector, professionals working in the field of human rights, hotel workers, police and gendarme all have their responsibilities to fulfil in prevention efforts.

There is need to give training to employees of relevant institutions in the sector

A judge interviewed in Ankara underlined the importance of training security personnel in preventing sexual exploitation in tourism and travel. According to him, training personnel in child protection services and the judiciary is also important.

Both girls and boys may be victims of commercial sexual exploitation

In interviews conducted with students from the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management, 74.7% of students say girls are victimized by sexual exploitation in tourism and travel while 10.1% think both male and female children have this negative experience.

During interviews with tourism sector and hotel workers in Antalya there were some saying that girls are brought in from other countries for sexual exploitation and both boys and girls are used in entertainment places for this purpose. Thus, studies in this field must consider that victims may be both female and male children, correcting some misconceptions prevalent amongst many professionals. Consideration of this fact will deliver healthier and more effective preventive and protective measures for both sexes.

There are tourism agencies, hotels and masseurs acting as intermediaries in sexual exploitation of children tourism and travel

“Such cases are rather in the districts of this province. They are admitted to hotels without declaring their identities. I witnessed this kind of prostitution (...) probably there were some intermediaries like the father, uncle or elder sibling of the child concerned. There are some persons working as proxy between rich clients and fathers of children. These people serve sheiks, wealthy people coming from abroad. Such cases take place more frequently in summer months. It was age 18 or 20 before, now girls involved in may be as young as 8-9.” (Antalya, Volunteer CSO worker, Female, 30 years old)

According to international reports, transportation and tourism firms as well as the boarding sector may be involved in commercial sexual exploitation of children. In fact, findings obtained from the field confirm this. The intermediary role of tourism agencies and hotels was mentioned in an interview conducted in Antalya.

During interviews conducted in Ankara, a judge pointed to masseurs acting as intermediaries besides travel agencies and hotels.

“Children here arrange things and go to Antalya. They are engaged in prostitution there for a week or two and then come back. A child stays with a woman for this purpose and I recall 2-3 such cases. The child is content with what he is doing and does not want to give information. He tells you his earlier workplace but not the present one. There is mostly oral sex in massage parlors and there are occasional cases of actual sexual intercourse.”

Interviews suggest that child prostitution is a widely known and age old phenomenon which is not found so unusual. This means that there are some gaps in the implementation of preventive and protective measures. Yet article 35 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child says, “States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.” The UN Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography has its articles requiring States Parties to introduce legislative reform to penalize related offences. Since Turkey is a State Party to both instruments it has constitutional obligations to implement these provisions.

Students in internship are exposed to sexual exploitation

Another finding from interviews is that girls working as interns in tourism areas, hotels and travel agencies may also be victims of sexual exploitation. Besides statements made in in-depth interviews, students from the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management of Social Sciences College of Hacettepe University say they have heard about sexual abuse of students during their internship.

“This issue must be talked about with interns. It is difficult to find qualified personnel in tourism. Under the title ‘intern’ there are many students working as almost slaves mostly in hotels at the coast (...) There are also some abused by hotel directors and other workers. The same is true for Turkish interns. Some of them see the sea for the first time in their lives and they are quite naive. We frequently hear about this in the sector.” (Antalya, Hotel Manager, Male, 53 years old)

It is stated also by other respondents that interns are employed in massage parlours and subjected to sexual abuse. Nine students from the school of tourism and hotel management mentioned cases involving assaults to their schoolmates, managers forcing interns to have their pictures taken together, harassment by visiting tourists and verbal and physical harassment by other tourism workers.

It is necessary to ensure the safety of interns in tourism enterprises and to protect young people from sexual abuse and exploitation. There is also need for launching further studies in this field.

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism must be promoted widely

The Code (short for “The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism”) is an industry-driven responsible tourism initiative with a mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry in order to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. It ensures the protection of vulnerable children at tourism spots by requiring tourism and travel companies to comply with 6 criteria. Accordingly signatory companies have to fulfil the following requirements: (1) Developing an ethic policy in relation to commercial sexual exploitation of children; (2) giving relevant training to their personnel; (3) including, in their contracts with their procurers (in countries of origin and destination) a provision stating mutual consensus on the rejection of commercial sexual exploitation of children; (4) informing travellers with catalogues, brochures, flight films, etc.; (5) informing local key persons at destination points; (6) submitting annual reports.

73.1% of students of tourism and hotel management covered by the survey have heard about a Code of Conduct for tourism sector which is unclear if it is related to aforementioned the Code. Only one-third (36.5%) think this information is important in preventing sexual and commercial exploitation of children. 41.8% of respondents have read some material about sexual and commercial exploitation of children in tourism and travel. Respondents think that employees in the tourism sector must know:

- the Code (36.5%),
- where to apply for in case they witness sexual exploitation of children (20.9%),
- international (14.2%) and domestic (8.8%) legislation in this field, and
- the definition of sexual exploitation of children (12.8%).

Refugee girls from Syria are victims of CSEC

*“There is a file that I am directly engaged in. A 14 years old Syrian girl gets married in Gaziantep and her husband later sold her off for prostitution.”
(Lawyer)*

Interviewees say Syrian refugee girls are victims of sexual exploitation in different forms like prostitution and child marriages. They think the presence of refugees in the region increased such cases which causes unrest and may lead to even graver social problems. They added that there are Turkish accomplices of Syrians organizing these affairs.

“In general I don't have much information about it. But I know that girls in Şanlıurfa used to be given out for marriage in return for money called 'milk money'. Letting children marry at such early ages is sexual exploitation.”(Tradesman, Male, 43 years old)

It is stated that economic situation is the main reason

for prostitution and marriage in return for money among Syrian refugees. It is also stressed that second and young bride is highly gloried in traditions of the region, motivating young girls to be sold off as second wives to older men to find a way out of camps.

“I mean those fleeing from armed conflict in Syria are in miserable conditions here on streets and anything can be expected from this people. They ran away for their lives. They disturb and provoke people because they are penniless and hungry; prostitution, child marriage, etc. these are normal things for them.” (Tradesman, Male, 42 years old).

Interviews indicated that local people have the impression that Syrian refugee families deliberately drive their children to prostitution. This impression bears the risk of committing crime of sexual exploitation of Syrian girls with impunity. Thus, building awareness that both families and their children are actually victims will contribute to reducing social tensions in this respect.

INTRODUCTION

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is one of the worst forms of violence against children, an act of crime that degrades and threatens the integrity of children, therefore violates the rights of the child, it robs the child of its childhood.

The Declaration and Agenda for Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children defines this form of exploitation as follows: “The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children's rights. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.”¹

The CSEC manifests itself in the form of child prostitution, child pornography, child trafficking for sexual purposes, domestic slavery or forced labour

or child marriages associated with sexual exploitation, and sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel (SECTT).²

The Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Turkey enshrines the rights of the child with a holistic view of the child. “States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse” and article 35 “States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.”³

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography includes provisions against such violations as “offering the child for the purpose of sexual exploitation, transfer of organs of the child for profit, forcing the child to work and child adoption and obliges participating States to penalize persons involved in these offences either as perpetrators or accomplices.”⁴

1 Declaration and Agenda for Action: 1st World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. (1996, August 31). Retrieved from http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/stockholm_declaration_1996.pdf

2 Questions and Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: An Information Booklet. (2008). ECPAT International. Pp. 14-15 Retrieved from http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/faq_eng_2008.pdf

3 The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Retrieved from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

4 Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2002). Retrieved from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

The most comprehensive international law on CSEC is the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) with designated provisions on different manifestations of CSEC and how governments should act upon to prevent CSEC happening, protect children if/when it happened through child friendly legal and psychosocial support procedures, effectively prosecute offenders (both groomers, recruiters and users), and provide rehabilitative care to victims.

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism takes place when persons travel elsewhere either in their own country or to foreign countries with the purpose of engaging in sexual contact with children.⁵

Turkey's child population is around 25 million, around 35% of the overall population.⁶ Although there are legal advances in transposing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter the CRC) into Turkish legal system, there are still many concerns that require legal harmonisation of Turkish laws with the CRC. For example, a recent legal analysis done for UNICEF and the Turkish government revealed that more than 12 clauses need to be changed in the Constitution alone to be in line with the CRC. In addition to these, 95 laws require major amendments to be in line with the CRC.⁷

Turkey does not have a holistic framework law and policy on child rights. Highly disbursed and controversial laws and policies thus do not provide a child protection system with a holistic view of the child. There is no clear legal division of responsibilities between government agencies in the field of child protection in general and protection of children from commercial sexual exploitation, therefore victim services are scattered and service providers may avoid liability and refer child victims to other agencies leaving children's needs in limbo and rights infringed.

In spite of recent institutional developments such as establishment of an office of ombudspersons, there is still no efficient complaint and effective remedy mechanisms accessible to children. Likewise, there is no rights-based monitoring mechanism that would provide disaggregated data in matters affecting children. Currently official statistics involving children are provided until the age of 17. Therefore, official statistics about children including sexual exploitation related statistics do not include children who are 18.

Following numbers⁸ reveal a dire state of children in terms of child sexual exploitation and abuse in Turkey:

- A recent study commissioned by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy revealed a number of disturbing truths in lives of girl children. For instance, one out of every 10 women who has married before the age of 18 has been exposed to sexual violence in their lifetime. Sexual abuse before the age of 15 is 9 percent. Nationwide, 38 percent of women have experienced sexual abuse before the age of 15 by strangers and 29 percent by male relatives other than their close family members. The acquaintances from the women's neighbourhood constitute 15 percent of the perpetrators of childhood sexual abuse. Concerning the sexual abuse perpetrated by family members, maternal uncles, paternal uncles and older brothers are in the first place among the perpetrators of sexual abuse (4 percent, 2 percent and 2 percent, respectively).⁹
- There are only few prevalence studies in recent years regarding child sexual abuse and exploitation, figures reveal that 6,4 % secondary school pupils¹⁰, 13,4 % girls in high schools¹¹ are exposed to some form of sexual abuse and exploitation in Turkey. In another study, university students reported 28 % sexual abuse incidents during their childhood.¹²

5 Combating Child Sex Tourism: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. (2008). ECPAT International. Retrieved from http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf

6 Turkish Statistical Institute. (n.d.). Address Based Population Registration System. Retrieved September 25, 2015, from http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreTablo.do?alt_id=1059

7 Tarhanlı, T., Gül, İ. I., İnceoğlu, A. A., Tokuzlu, L. B., Başalp, N., Karan, U., et al. (2011). Birleşmiş Milletlerin Çocuk Haklarına dair Sözleşmesi ile Türk Hukuk Mevzuatı Karşılaştırmalı Analizi. Ankara: UNICEF. (Comparative Analysis of UNCRC and Turkish Laws) <http://unicef.org.tr/bilgimerkezidetay.aspx?id=86>

8 Most if not all numbers provided by the government agencies are children until 17 years of age. Children who are 18 years of age are not included in the national statistics.

9 Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies & Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Policies. (2015). Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey (Research Report), pp 83-123. Ankara. Retrieved from http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/eng/english_main_report.pdf

10 A. Yıldırım, M. Karatas, R. Yılmaz, I. Cetin, & I. Senel. (2013). Prevalence and correlates of school violence and sexual abuse among adolescents in Tokat, Turkey. *HealthMED*, 7(2).

11 Alikasifoğlu, M., Erginoz, E., Ercan, O., Albayrak-Kaymak, D., Uysal, O., & İlter, O. (2006). Sexual abuse among female high school students in Istanbul, Turkey. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 30(3), 247-255.

12 Eskin, M., Kaynak-Demir, H., & Demir, S. (2005). Same-Sex Sexual Orientation, Childhood Sexual Abuse, and Suicidal Behavior in University Students in Turkey. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 34(2), 185-195.

- Court cases involving sexual assaults against children rose from 4,500 in 2002 to 20,474 cases in 2014.¹³
- According to the Ministry of Justice 2014 statistics, there were 744 court cases involving child prostitution concerning children from 12-17 year olds. For the same offence, court case numbers were 801 in 2013 and 884 in 2012. Number of child victims involved in those court cases are unknown. Number of cases involving children who were 18 are also unknown.¹⁴
- Same statistics revealed that there were 24825 court decisions about child sexual abuse in 2014, 13968 (56.3 %) of those are convictions that child sexual abuse occurred.
- Also every month on average 650 child sexual abuse and exploitation cases were referred to the Forensic Medicine Institute in 2014.¹⁵
- Number of children brought to security units in 2014 due to sexual assault is 11095 (9718 girls and 1377 boys). In general, number of children brought/come to the security units (police, gendarme etc.) rose from 58,000 in 2007 to 290,414 in 2014.¹⁶
- 20 % of all recorded marriages (115.660 persons) is girl child under 18 vis-à-vis 2 % for boy child.¹⁷
- Report of the Parliamentary Investigation Commission on honour killings revealed that around 16 % of victims of all honour killings were children (10 % girls, 6 % boys) from 2000-2005. Total number of identified honour killings in that period was around 2000.¹⁸
- Recent systematic review commissioned by the International Children's Center (ICC) revealed that there is little research and data regarding CSEC in Turkey.¹⁹

With the information outlined above, it is safe to state that there is CSEC in Turkey. However, there is almost no information about one of the manifestations of CSEC in Turkey: child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism (SECTT)

With approximately 38 million tourists in 2013, Turkey is the 6th most visited country by tourists in the world²⁰, most of them from source countries for identified victims of trafficking in the region. Also approximately 7 million Turkish citizens travelled abroad in 2013, most of whom for touristic and business reasons.²¹

There are reported cases of SECTT involving Turkish travellers both during domestic and international travels and foreigners travelling Turkey. However, no official numbers are available and no research is being conducted about the prevalence, incidences, risk factors and circumstances in which SECTT is taking place.

For this reason, in collaboration with ECPAT International and ECPAT Netherlands, Network against CSEC in Turkey led by the ICC, Hacettepe University Institute of Public Health, and Association of Public Health Specialists conducted a research to shed light on SECTT in Turkey and by Turkish citizens so that better child protection measures will be put in place to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation by the government and by the industry in Turkey. This will in turn protect the industry itself with ethical and child friendly tourism and travel practices and reputation to attract higher number of tourists. It will also help the Government of Turkey in its international reputation and leadership in child protection and child rights in the world.

The objective of this research is to understand means and methods of SECTT and provide information that could help prevent SECTT through knowledge and

13 Ministry of Justice, Turkey. (2015). Adli İstatistikler (Judicial Register Statistics) 2014. Retrieved September 25, 2015, from http://www.adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/istatistik_2014/ist_tabasil.htm

14 Supra § 12

15 Written Response (7/35141) given by Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ for a Parliamentary Inquiry by Dr. Sezgin Tanrikulu on 21 August 2014. (2014).

16 Turkish Statistical Institute. (2014). İstatistiklerle Çocuk (Child Statistics), 2014. Retrieved from http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/Kitap.do?metod=KitapDetay&KT_ID=11&KITAP_ID=269

17 Turkish Statistical Institute. (n.d.). Social Structure and Gender Statistics. Retrieved September 25, 2015, from http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreTablo.do?alt_id=1068

18 Grand National Assembly of Turkey. (2006, May 29). Töre ve Namus Cinayetleri ile Kadına ve Çocuklara Karşı Sıddetin Sebeplerinin Arastırılması Komisyonu Raporu (Parliamentary Inquiry Commission on Reasons of Honour Killings and Violence against Women and Children). Retrieved from [https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/sirasayi/donem22/yil01/ss1140_BOLUM%20I%20\(0001-0153\).pdf](https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/sirasayi/donem22/yil01/ss1140_BOLUM%20I%20(0001-0153).pdf)

19 Uslu, Runa İdil, & Kapçı, Emine Gül. (2014). A Systematic Review of the Research on Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children in Turkey. Ankara: International Children's Center. Retrieved from <http://www.cocukhaklariizleme.org/wp-content/uploads/SR-F-WEB.pdf>

20 World Tourism Organization. (2014). UNWTO Tourism Highlights Edition 2014. Madrid: World Tourism Organization.

21 Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkey. (n.d.). Number of Arriving-Departing Visitors, Foreigners and Citizens. Retrieved September 25, 2015, from <http://www.kultur.gov.tr/EN,36568/number-of-arriving-departing-visitors-foreigners-and-ci-.html>

experiences of stakeholders ranging from decision makers to persons who are working in tourism and travel as well as in child protection.

For the Network against CSEC in Turkey and ECPAT International, this research also means strengthened evidence-based advocacy and lobby action to improve child protection through research on the nature and extent of sexual exploitation of children.

Research sought some answers to following questions:

- Which children are victims of SECTT and what factors render them particularly vulnerable?
- Who is organising and exploiting the victims of SECTT?
- What legal protection from SECTT has been put in place for children and what gaps remain? What additional legal and technical measures are needed to effectively combat SECTT in Turkey?

METHODOLOGY

Three distinct methods of inquiry were carried out in the research process to enable a triangulation of knowledge so that wider range of information may be obtained to better understand SECTT and its varying manifestations.

The first one is a **review of existing knowledge** through documents containing international and national normative framework including treaties, reports by national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic studies, and media reports. This review provides us with an overview of the issue of CSEC in general and SECTT in particular, the legal and administrative child protection system to address the issue and help prepare a formulation of the qualitative and quantitative surveys used to dig deep into the issue to understand it better and make better policy recommendations based on survey findings.

The second one involves a **qualitative survey** including in-depth interviews in Istanbul and Antalya as two main touristic towns, Ankara as the administrative capital of Turkey where policies are made and Urfa where several refugee camps are based and there are big refugee population from Syria. Starting from the Network against CSEC members, snowball sampling was used in order to reach out to persons with knowledge and experience about cases of SECTT.

At the outset, professions and civil society organizations presumed of having a certain degree of information on cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism were listed. In provinces of Istanbul and Antalya, plans were made to interview particularly those professionals who might have information due to their presence directly in the field, while in Ankara weight was given to interviews with health, legal and social services professionals working in child protection.

By taking suggestions from experts working in governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and academicians working on CSEC, the project team identified key persons from relevant professions to be interviewed. During interviews the “snowball method” was used to reach other persons. Interviews were conducted in January and February 2015.

During in-depth interviews, different semi-structured questionnaires were formulated for different professional groups (see Annex 1). Testing phase of the questionnaires to be used in qualitative survey was conducted in Ankara province and changes in questionnaires were made to fine tune them.

Upon an open call within the Network against CSEC, the project team brought together prospective interviewers to inform them about the objective of the research and expectations from interviews to be conducted. Two social workers and one public health specialist who had earlier experience in running surveys selected to conduct in-depth interviews. Selected interviewers provided with technical information on CSEC and SECTT, interviewing techniques and in-depth interview reporting. As a quality assurance practice, interviewers were asked to conduct at least one interview and report it before going into the field for the research. Principle investigator and core group of researchers provided supervision to the interviewers throughout the field phase.

During each in-depth interview, one interviewer conducted the interview using the corresponding questionnaire while the other interviewer took notes of the answers along with gestures and environment within which the in-depth interviews took place. Upon informed consent of the interviewee, some interviews were recorded with a voice recorder. Interview reports were based on their notes taken and records. Reports also include information about the venue of interview, duration, attitude and responses/reactions of persons interviewed. Evaluation of interview reports was made by the principal investigator and the core research team.

Total of 49 in-depth interviews took place (15 in İstanbul, 8 in Ankara, 21 in Antalya and 15 in Şanlıurfa), reports of 36 of them (7 in İstanbul, 8 in Ankara, 11 in Antalya and 10 in Şanlıurfa) were considered in this report.

The approval for the survey was taken from the Ethics Board of International Children's Centre (ICC) and Hacettepe University. Interviewers were supplied with written information from the ICC to get their informed content prior to interviews. Oral consent was taken from interviewees before interviews. While doing this, they were informed that the interview would be used solely for the purposes of the survey and their identities would be kept confidential.

The third one is a **quantitative survey** which aimed to measure identification of level of information and opinions of students from the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management Department of Hacettepe University on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

Hacettepe University is one of the largest higher education institutions in Turkey located in Ankara. Within the university, the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management of Social Sciences College offers its students a bachelors' degree.

A survey questionnaire was applied to 79 freshmen and sophomore students attending the Department. The school has 241 students in total, meaning that the survey reached 32.8 % of these students.

The questionnaire used in the survey included questions designed to explore the information and opinions of students regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Data was collected through a questionnaire under observation.

For the survey, approval was obtained from the Board of Ethics of Hacettepe University for Non-Entrepreneurial Clinical Studies. Student participation to the survey was voluntary.

About a topic where information is almost absent, using three different yet complementary methods enabled a more coherent analysis of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Turkey. This triangulation of knowledge showed an overall picture of the situation with existing yet unseen information from official documents and from the field, along with certain identified risks and opportunities to guide policy makers

to make informed decisions to end sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Turkey.

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

Although the research was carefully prepared and a set of different methodologies were used to reduce incoherent and biased information, it needs to be acknowledged that there were some limitations and shortcomings of this research.

First and foremost, the research was undertaken during a time when Turkey has been going through a difficult social and political period with influx of Syrian refugees and escalated violent political environment that has an effect on tourism and travel industry with less room for dialogue to discuss issues involving businesses. At the backdrop of such an environment, although aims of the research were reached, following limitations affected the research outcomes:

Due to lack of available and/or reliable data along with no prior research around the issues of CSEC and SECTT, the research in Turkey had to rely heavily on proxy data such as numbers from crude court case statistics which is hard to interpret and subjective stories from interviews that have cultural bias and validation issues

Access to organisations and businesses, especially tourism and travel agencies, were not easy. Therefore, although higher number of persons reached through the interviews, a number of them needed to be omitted from the research evaluation.

Another issue is the sample size of tourism and hotel management students that was administered a questionnaire to understand their level of knowledge about SECTT and the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Although not representative, the findings from the questionnaire are definitely indicative of the level of understanding and knowledge of the issues researched amongst the future of tourism industry in Turkey.

Last but not least, one of the shortcomings of the research is that although it was first planned, child participation in the research could not be secured due to a myriad of reasons including ethical challenges that could not be overcome in a short period of time the research was conducted. Therefore, it was omitted from the research.

CHAPTER 1

STATE OF CSEC IN TURKEY

WHAT ARE NUMBERS SAYING?

Although there are very little official disaggregated child victim numbers to show the state of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in Turkey, there are proxy indicators to understand the issue.

For example, offender numbers reveal that while sexual assault is wide spread all over Turkey (Table 3), sexual exploitation convictions are rare (Table 1).

Table 1. Breakdown of convicted offenders for child prostitution (Turkish Penal Code Art227§1)

	12 - 15 YEAR-OLDS		16 - 18 YEAR-OLDS		18 YEAR-OLDS AND ABOVE		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
2012	3	4	29	28	607	213	884
2013	7	6	31	16	557	184	801
2014	2	5	14	9	520	224	774

Source: Ministry of Justice

There were 774 offenders in 2014 convicted for sexually exploiting children for prostitution (Turkish Penal Code Art227§1), 32 of them were children themselves. Although the numbers and gender of child victims exploited are not known, these numbers show that sustained number of children are sexually exploited in prostitution in Turkey.

As can be seen in the table, numbers of 18 year-old convicted offenders are not known but there is a considerable number of children under 18 who are convicted of a crime of encouraging or facilitating child prostitution or harbouring a child for prostitution. Although it is not officially explained by the Ministry of Justice, boys convicted of child prostitution include boys who had some form of sexual conduct with girls whose parents complained about the incidence on child prostitution charges. However, there is no information as to why so many girls were convicted for child prostitution charges. This may be explained by incidences reported of sexual conduct of girls were criminalised by parents of their friend who complained of their child's friend for

encouraging or facilitating child prostitution or harbouring their daughter for this purpose. Even though children involved in prostitution and sexual conduct between children in and of itself do not constitute a crime, parents may lodge complaints against the other child.

According to figures provided by the Ministry of Justice of Turkey as defined in the Turkish Penal Code Art80§3, convicted offenders for child trafficking for sexual purposes in 2014 was 93, two of the convicted were children.

The figures provided by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) about victims of child trafficking through their hotlines is very limited. In 2014 only two child victims of trafficking were identified by IOM in Turkey. According to figures provided by Ministry of Interior of Turkey, since 2004, the number of children under 17 were only 36 and most if not all are trafficked for purposes other than sexual. We do not know number of child victims who were 18 at the time of being identified as victim. In the same period, number of adult trafficking victims identified by Turkish law enforcement were 1275.

Table 2. Number of Child Victims of Trafficking in Turkey

YEAR	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
Number of 17 year old children and under	2	7	10	4	4	4	1	1	0	3	36

Source: IOM

A recent PhD study about girls with sexual exploitation history who are placed in Care and Social Rehabilitation Centres under the Ministry of Family and Social Policies revealed that amongst 411 girls under state protection only in one specialized institution in Istanbul for sexually abused and exploited girls, there were 36 reported cases of CSEC and SECTT.²²

Although number of child victims of sexual abuse are not known, following numbers in Table 3 show that every year at least over 40000 persons are convicted of sexual abuse of children for the last three years as opposed to just around 800 persons that are convicted of legally defined forms of CSEC in Turkey (child prostitution and child trafficking for sexual purposes). (See Table 3)

Apart from number of convicted offenders, another proxy indicator is the number of court cases involving child sexual abuse before the courts. According to 2014 statistics of the Ministry of Justice of Turkey on sexual abuse, around half of all sexual offence cases before courts involve child sexual abuse cases. (See Table 4)

Another proxy indicator is the number of sexual exploitation and abuse victims brought into the security units including police and gendarmerie. (See Table 5)

Child victim numbers (Table 5) and number of convictions (Table 1 and 3) and court cases (Table 4) above involving both sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children show a considerable discrepancy that may have a number of reasons such as inconsistent data collection methods by different units in justice and security.

Table 3. Number of convicted offenders for sexual abuse of children

	2012				2013				2014			
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
C = Child under 17 A= 18 and above	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A
Turkish Penal Code Art102 – Sexual assault	8	155	525	7,197	11	115	451	7,010	11	110	465	6,928
Turkish Penal Code Art103 – Child molestation	98	1,055	4,092	11,807	82	986	4,577	11,913	129	826	4,334	12,461
Turkish Penal Code Art104 – Sexual intercourse with persons under the age of sexual consent	7	99	291	1,698	4	80	269	1,638	4	80	240	1,446
Turkish Penal Code Art105 – Sexual harassment	12	186	750	13,405	19	210	757	14,289	21	173	702	12,336
Total	125	1,495	5,658	34,107	116	1,391	6,054	34,850	165	1,189	5,741	33,171

Source: Ministry of Justice

22 Kaplan, P. A. (2014). Girl victims of sexual abuse: A sociological and victimological investigation (PhD). İstanbul Üniversitesi, Adli Tıp Enstitüsü, Sosyal Bilimler Anabilim Dalı, İstanbul. p 100. Retrieved from <http://www.cocukgozlemevi.org/1450/cinsel-istismar-magduru-kiz-cocuklar-sosyolojik-ve-viktimojik-bir-inceleme-2>

Table 4. Child Sexual Abuse Case and Ruling Numbers

	NUMBER OF CRIMES IN COURT CASES	NUMBER OF COURT RULINGS	CONVICTIONS	ACQUITTALS	OTHER RULINGS
2012	17,589	15,485	10,891	3,826	5,946
2013	17,948	17,459	13,925	4,466	6,260
2014	18,104	20,474	13,968	4,614	6,243

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table 5. Sex and Age Breakdown of Child Victims of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Brought into Security Units, 2014

	UNDER 11 YEARS OF AGE	12 - 14 YEARS OF AGE	15 - 17 YEARS OF AGE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Girls	1,304	2,319	6,091	4	9718
Boys	748	332	296	1	1377
Total	2052	2651	6387	5	11095

Source: Ministry of Interior

Looking at the numbers (Table 6) about how victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation are handled in terms of available services and referrals, only a fraction of the cases is referred to the protective services by the security units.

There is also very little information regarding the number of children at risk of sexual exploitation and

sexual abuse. Therefore, another proxy indicator is being used to understand potential risk groups that are counted in the Turkish child protection system: number of children brought into security units (Table 7) and reasons they are brought in. The reasons included in the table are all considered to be the groups of children who are at a higher risk of being exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation.

Table 6. Child Victims of Sexual Abuse Referrals / Hand-overs from the Security Units, 2014

PLACE OF REFERRAL/ HAND-OVER	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Judicial Units	560
Her/his Family	8,896
School or other education institution	31
Health services	76
Social services	946
Extended Family or Relative	349
Other	237

Source: Ministry of Interior

Table 7. Reasons, Age and Sex Breakdown of Children Brought into Security Units, 2014

AGE GROUPS	2014										
	-11		12-14		15-17		UNKNOWN		TOTAL		
	G: girl, B: boy	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Abandoned	7	8	6	4	19	7				32	19
Runaway	29	72	506	402	1391	792		1		1926	1267
Missing	549	1114	2898	2939	7463	5453	20	52		10930	9558
Victim	15990	24212	13716	17005	28381	31821	16	31		58103	73069
Drug use		4	5	22	17	171				22	197
Working on the street	692	1451	273	596	54	199	1	1		1020	2247
Living on the streets	2	4	4	2	3	6	2			11	12
Illegal work	1	2	3	5	4	9				8	16
Runaway from care settings	4	16	129	185	218	309	2			353	510
Total	12274	26883	17540	21160	37550	38767	41	85		72405	86895

Source: Ministry of Interior

Apart from these official numbers, there are also numbers from small scale academic studies and limited NGO monitoring activities.

The sexual abuse and exploitation map prepared by the International Children's Centre (ICC) by collecting cases from the media and using the Ushahidi mapping method shows 519 cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse cases from the media in the period January 2010-September 2015. This indicates that only few cases are made known to the public through the media.²³

The report by the Human Rights Association 2014 also presents cases where children are used in trafficking

for sexual purposes, prostitution and pornography including cases of one Romanian child whose passport was confiscated by a trafficking gang in Antalya, one of the tourism hotspots of Turkey.²⁴

The last proxy indicator for sexual exploitation and abuse is the number of children who are married. Child marriage in Turkey may take forms of sexual exploitation and in itself constitutes an important problem. The official marriage statistics (Table 8) shows that 1 in 10 girls are married in Turkey.²⁵ This number does not include religious marriages and informal marriages below 15 year olds that aren't registered. It can easily be seen that girls are disproportionately affected by child marriages.

23 International Children's Center. (2015) Violence against Children Map of Turkey. <http://www.cocukhaklarizleme.org/harita/>

24 Human Rights Association. (2014). Report on the Human Rights Violations in Turkey. Pp. 244-245. Retrieved from <http://www.insanhaklaridernegi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/son-hd-2014-raporu.pdf>

25 Marriage Statistics in Turkey by Age, Year and Province. (2015). Turkish Statistical Institute. Retrieved from http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PrelstatistikTablo.do?istab_id=1105

Table 8. Number of 16 - 19 year-old children with registered marriages from 2012 - 2014

	2012	%	2013	%	2014	%
Girl (16 - 19 year-old)	129,130	10.7	123,120	10.3	116,275	9.7
Boy (16 - 19 year-old)	14,207	1.2	13,546	1.1	12,619	1.1
Total # of all Marriages	1,207,502	100	1,200,276	100	1,199,408	100

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute

According to Turkish Statistics Institute's Research report on Family Structure in 2006, 13 % of marriages in urban areas and 23.5 % in rural areas pay bride price while getting married.²⁶

According to Turkish Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), 11.9 % of women in the age group 15-19 were already married in 2003.²⁷ In 2008 this percentage was 9.6 %²⁸ and in 2013 7.2 %.²⁹ The DHS 2013 reveals that 17.8 % of women in the age group 15-19 had already given their first birth and 7 % were pregnant to their first child.

According to a study, proportions of married females and males in the age group 15-19 are 7.5 % and 0.0 %, respectively. 73.1 % of married females in this age group have experienced pregnancy and 12.4 % experienced induced abortion.³⁰ Population of 15-19 year-old females were 2,997,³⁰ in 2007 and 3,150,484 in 2013.³¹

A recent systematic review of child sexual exploitation and abuse in Turkey commissioned by the ICC, there were no studies found in CSEC in Turkey and only three studies on child, early and forced marriages.³²

NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION

Although there are a number of national plans of action that may have a bearing on preventing CSEC and SECTT, there is no single national plan of action (NPA) or sections of existing varying national action or strategic plans (SP) specifically addressing these CSEC or SECTT with the holistic view of the child in mind, with the rights and needs of the child in mind.

Existing national plans of action such as human trafficking, development, child rights, and violence against women have certain components that might contribute to preventing CSEC and/or SECTT, it is safe to say that there is no element of child protection in business, tourism, travel NPAs or SPs in Turkey.

There are three points that need to be highlighted about the NPAs in Turkey. The first one is that apart from development plans, none of the NPAs or SPs pass through the Parliament, they are generally prepared by one government department with limited consultation with other departments and NGOs but without participation of children and youth. Therefore, their implementation might be truncated by changes

26 Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (Turkish Statistical Institute). (2006). Aile yapısı araştırması (Family Structure Research) 2006. Ankara. p7. Retrieved from http://www.tuik.gov.tr/IcerikGetir.do?istab_id=16 (Turkish).

27 Turkey demographic and health survey 2003. (2004). Ankara: Hacettepe University, Institute of Population Studies. Retrieved from <http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/eng/tdhs03/>

28 Turkey demographic and health survey 2008. (2009). Ankara: Hacettepe University, Institute of Population Studies. Retrieved from http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/eng/dokumanlar/TDHS-2008_Main_Report.pdf

29 Turkey demographic and health survey 2013. (2014). Ankara: Hacettepe University, Institute of Population Studies. Retrieved from <http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/eng/tdhs13/>

30 Özcebe, H., Ünalın, T., Türkyılmaz, S., & Coşkun, Y. (2007). Türkiye Gençlerde Cinsel Sağlık ve Üreme Sağlığı Araştırması (Youth Sexual Health and Reproductive Health in Turkey) (Research Report). Ankara: UNFPA and Population Studies Association. Retrieved from http://www.nd.org.tr/custom/odesismc/Turkce_rapor.pdf

31 Population in Turkey by age and sex. (2015). Turkish Statistical Institute. Retrieved from http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PrelstatistikTablo.do?istab_id=1084

32 Uslu, Runa İdil, & Kapçı, Emine Gül. (2014). A Systematic Review of the Research on Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children in Turkey. Ankara: International Children's Center. Retrieved from <http://www.cocukhaklarizleme.org/wp-content/uploads/SR-F-WEB.pdf>

in government or administration. The second one is that they mostly lack integrated monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Therefore, even if they are implemented, there is little understanding what works and what doesn't in the NPAs and SPs. Moreover, if their implementation is faulty, or if they are not implemented, there is no accountability to prevent negligence or maladministration. The third point is the absence of coordination and cooperation mechanisms with clear tasks and roles to make the NPAs/SPs work.

The situation analysis in the Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018) states that the following remain as important risk factors for children and youth: socio-economic and regional disparities; poverty; gender inequality; child marriage; child labour; juvenile delinquency; violence against and sexual abuse of the child; disruption in families; weakening of senses of belonging and solidarity; smoking, alcohol, drugs and abuse of internet. Given this backdrop, the Development Plan sets the following objectives: creating an active, self-confident, enterprising and participating generation equipped with knowledge and skills required in information society; improving the quality of services offered to youth; eliminating child poverty and deprivation; supporting early childhood development; improving the rates of school enrolment and attendance of girls; and ensuring the social integration of youth neither in employment or in education. State policies include extending better education and health services to children, improving their life skills, improving the improving the life quality of children in risks groups and from vulnerable families and ensuring their integration with the society. The plan also states that child protection and justice systems will be coordinated so as to provide a whole system capable of introducing preventive mechanisms and practices and extending services to support the personal and social development of children in need of protection.³³

The Ministry of Family and Social Policies is responsible for services of early identification of children under risk and adoption of necessary protection measures. The National Child Rights Strategy and Action Plan (2013-

2017) prepared by the Ministry states that relevant activities will be carried out in an interdisciplinary, holistic and coordinated way. The document envisages effective measures to prevent the abuse of children and other initiatives for the protection and rehabilitation of child victims. The document also mentions effective legal and administrative measures to prevent child marriages. It is further stated that in the juvenile justice system necessary arrangements will be made "to categorize acts of sexual abuse of children with respect to the identity of perpetrators and to introduce sanctions to observe the best interest of the child." Also, the act of "incest" will be treated as a specific category of offence. There are also actions to make the media more child-friendly.³⁴

The Ministry of Health's 2013-2017 Strategic Plan sets objectives and targets to protect and promote the health of children without any specific mention of sexual abuse of children. Other official strategies and objectives related in general to sexual abuse are given below.³⁵

The Strategic Plan of the Ministry of National Education (2010-2014) has headings of "Lifelong Learning" and "Information Society" under which there are provisions related to the importance of and action against cases of abuse.³⁶

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

CSEC and SECTT are highly complex child rights violations and crimes that manifest itself in different ways. Preventing CSEC and SECTT require a set of coordinated actions to

- prevent it happening with public education (information and awareness) campaigns, child/human rights education, sexual and reproductive health education to children, families, professionals, and integrated child friendly reporting and complaints mechanisms
- protect children if/when it happens with child friendly and free psychosocial and legal aid and rehabilitation services to children and families
- prosecute perpetrators

33 Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018). (2014). the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Development. Retrieved from [http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/DevelopmentPlans/Attachments/5/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20\(2014-2018\).pdf](http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/DevelopmentPlans/Attachments/5/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20(2014-2018).pdf)

34 Child Rights National Strategic and Action Plan (2013-2017). (2012). Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Policy. Retrieved from [http://cocukhizmetleri.aile.gov.tr/data/5422b041369dc316585c0d87/strateji%20belgesi%20ve%20eylem%20plani%20\(2013-2017\).pdf](http://cocukhizmetleri.aile.gov.tr/data/5422b041369dc316585c0d87/strateji%20belgesi%20ve%20eylem%20plani%20(2013-2017).pdf)

35 Strategic Plan 2013-2017. (2012). Ministry of Health of Turkey. Retrieved from <http://disab.saglik.gov.tr/yonetim/Uploads/files/kitaplar/stratejikplaning.pdf>

36 Strategic Plan 2009-2014. (2009). Ministry of National Education of Turkey. Retrieved from http://sgb.meb.gov.tr/Str_yon_planlama_V2/MEBStratejikPlan.pdf

Although there have been attempts to set up child protection coordination mechanisms in Turkey for the last 30 years, existing system is highly dispersed and compartmentalised.

There are a number of semi-structured coordination efforts such as Inter-Sectorial Council for Children based on UNICEF – Turkish Government programme, Child Rights Monitoring and Coordination Committee and Unit under the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Coordination Committee against Human Trafficking under Ministry of Interior. However, these coordination efforts remained ad hoc and not efficient to lead coordinated action to eliminate CSEC and SECTT in Turkey.

Nonetheless, Turkish public administration is tasked to undertake certain isolated actions to protect children from harm. For example;

- In the context of prevention and protection, the Ministry of Interior is responsible for providing secure living environments together with the General Directorate of Security and General Command of Gendarme.
- Further, General Directorate of Local Administrations as well as Municipalities are responsible locally for ensuring safe environments in travel and tourism.
- The Family of Ministry and Social Policies is engaged in activities to strengthen families and extend services to economically and socially disadvantaged families. It is also the leading government agency in charge of protecting child victims of abuse.
- The Ministry of National Education delivers services in the fields of formal and non-formal education also including the dimension of informing children and families. “Education measures” adopted by the Ministry also includes schemes to ensure the school attendance of child victims of abuse.
- During child monitoring activities, the Ministry of Health informs families about healthy child raising. It is the government agency responsible for diagnosing cases of sexual abuse and extending treatment and rehabilitation services. Child Monitoring Centres are within the institutions and facilities under the Ministry of Health.
- The Ministry of Justice is responsible for prosecuting and penalizing the perpetrators of commercial sexual exploitation.

- The Higher Board for Radio and Television is authorized to take decisions and engage in practices prohibiting such broadcasts that may pose risks for children.
- The Ministry of Tourism and Culture is in charge of introducing rules and inspecting practices in the context of safe tourism.
- The Ministry of Transportation, Communication and Maritime Affairs is engaged in ensuring internet safety through the Information Technologies and Communication Board.
- Of government agencies mentioned above, the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Transportation, Communication and Maritime Affairs Information Technologies and Communication Board, in particular, are also engaged in joint safety and security initiatives with relevant international institutions.

In the civil society, The Network against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Network against CSEC) is trying to mainstream the issue of CSEC and SECTT to close this coordination gap. The Network against CSEC comprises of civil society organizations in Turkey that work for the elimination of sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and all forms of sexual exploitation of children. The network also created a youth group. The Network has 52 members including bar associations and academic units.

The Network is an associate member of ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) and engages in joint activities with ECPAT groups around the world.

Network members conduct training programmes related to sexual exploitation of children including child marriage; members from the universities inform students about child abuse and exploitation and building awareness in families applying to health facilities for various reasons. Academics carry out studies in related issues and provide evidence base to various areas of intervention, contribute in scientific terms to government efforts and join national and international civil society organizations on a voluntary basis. Academic institutions in the field of health provide protection to victims while also engage in diagnosis and treatment.

LEGAL PREVENTIVE AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Having been ratified almost all CSEC related international treaties, Turkey has no excuse of not having a strong legal framework to establish a holistic child protection system to end CSEC and SECTT. In spite of all efforts,

Turkish normative framework is still not harmonised with international child rights norms. As explained in the Introduction section of this report, Turkey needs to harmonise its laws to better protect children from harm.

Following legal comparative tables briefly show what legal advances are needed in Turkey:

INTERNATIONAL LAW	NATIONAL LEGISLATION
<p>Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) (Article 34, 35), Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Lanzarote Convention, Convention on Cybercrime (Article 9), Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Article 3)</p> <p>Combined, these international standards asks governments to legislate laws dealing with preventive aspects in civil and private law, protective measures in civil and private law, substantive criminal law and procedural law as well as</p>	<p>Article 227 of the Turkish Penal Code (TPC), child prostitution is categorized but no definition provided for identification and protection of victims. Article 80 is related to human trafficking. Child trafficking for sexual purposes is just sufficiently regulated. Intentional conduct of the crime is provided as the main legal issue. TPC does not make any reference to sexual abuse in terms of human trafficking. In TPC, there is no specific article on child prostitution. Child prostitution is placed under an article designed for adults. There is no article specifically dealing with child pornography. All actions that can be included in the scope of pornography are included in the scope of obscenity crime in Article 226 of the TPC. In respect to child pornography, the sub-clauses of 1 and 2 exist on the Article; however, its insufficiency and disorder cause several problems and obstacles during the implementation of the law. The sexual crimes committed against children on virtual platforms is not clearly defined, which, in some cases, might cause unjustified restriction of the freedom of expression.</p> <p>In the Article 103-105 of TPC deals with sexual abuse of children, no preventive and rehabilitative measures are envisaged in Turkish law. There is no specific regulation for the child offenders of sexual abuse of children crime. Definition of sexual behavior and sexual consent are not clearly provided in the laws.</p>

CHAPTER 2

UNDERSTANDING SECTT IN TURKEY

Because most CSEC and SECTT are perpetrated as underground criminal activity, there is little in existing child protection measures to prevent SECTT and protect children from it. However, it is known from court cases that hit headlines in newspapers and research in other countries that SECTT is happening in Turkey and abroad by Turkish citizens.

ECPAT groups in Europe reports more and more perpetrators of SECTT from Turkey in Eastern Europe, particularly in the Black Sea area.^{37 38} ECPAT International's global and Europe reports on SECTT revealed several incidence of SECTT perpetrators from Turkey. For instance, in Moldova, ECPAT associate La Strada reported cases of Turkish citizens engaged in SECTT spending week-ends in privately rented apartments.³⁹ Similarly, in Ukraine, recent research initiated by ECPAT found that both group and individual sex tours involving Turkish men have become common in recent years⁴⁰ and that Turkish citizens are likely the most represented nationality for SECTT in the country.⁴¹ Nationals from Turkey were also identified as organizers of "sex tours" involving women and minors in Belarus⁴² as well as consumers of sex services with young people in Northern Russia and, more recently, in other countries outside Europe (e.g. Cambodia⁴³ and Uganda).

Outside Europe, there are other recorded examples of child sexual abuse by a Turkish tourist in Africa in 2012. A perpetrator from Turkey who had lured over 50 Ugandan underage girls for sex was arrested and detained in Uganda. The man was found in possession of pornographic videos depicting the young girls during sexual acts. Reports indicated that he had already been charged in 2009 before a court in Malindi, Kenya, after he was allegedly found having sex with a 15-year old Kenyan girl.⁴⁴ The Ugandan Special Investigations Unit was first alerted to the man's activities from his Facebook page. The accused had publicly uploaded nude photographs of himself and a young teenage girl, and even bragged that he had been able to circumvent "court after court" by traveling from "country to country".⁴⁵

Due to lack of research and numbers about SECTT in Turkey, two surveys were conducted, one qualitative and one quantitative.

The qualitative survey aimed at conducting inquiries concerning two distinct issues:

- identification of attitudes towards commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, and
- identification of attitudes towards the commercial sexual exploitation of Syrian refugee children.

37 ECPAT International. (2014). CSEC in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Retrieved from http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_CIS%20%28English%29.pdf

38 ECPAT International. (2014). CSEC in Europe. Retrieved from http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Europe.pdf

39 Information provided by La Strada Moldova through the questionnaire submitted in February 2015.

40 2014 Draft report on CSEC in Ukraine by La Strada, p. 23.

41 La Strada Ukraine. (2012) Child Sex Tourism Research Report (Ukrainian), p. 54. Retrieved from http://www.la-strada.org.ua/ucp_mod_library_view_179.html

42 Minsk police intensify the fight against prostitution (Belarussian). (2012, December 11). Sovetskaya Belorussia. Retrieved from <http://www.sb.by/v-belarusi/article/minskaya-militsiya-aktiviziruet-borbu-s-prostitutsiyey-2.html>

43 Pisey, H. (2014, May 9). Turkish Man Arrested for Buying Children's Virginity. The Cambodia Daily. Retrieved from <https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/turkish-man-arrested-for-buying-childrens-virginity-58426/>

44 Turkish paedophile re-arrested. (2012, March 29). New Vision. Uganda. Retrieved from <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/629969-turkish-paedophile-re-arrested.html>

45 Kigongo, J., Bagala, A., & Croome, P. (2012, March 29). Sex tourist pays Shs6 million fine, walks free. Retrieved from <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1375704/-/awpbihz/-/index.html>

ATTITUDES TOWARDS AND MANIFESTATIONS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM (SECTT) IN TURKEY

Key informant interviews in Istanbul, Ankara, Antalya and Urfa provided substantial information about SECTT in Turkey.

Following excerpts from key informant interviews paint a rough picture about how SECTT happens in Turkey, which groups of children are at risk of SECTT, who are the perpetrators, what protection measures are implemented for SECTT victims, what is needed to fill a protection gap:

In Istanbul, it was planned to have interviews with taxi drivers, masseurs, LGBTI volunteers, volunteers from associations of Roma people, travel agencies and academics. Appointments were made with key persons and it was aimed at reaching others through these key persons. People from travel agencies and taxi drivers refused to be interviewed saying they had no information about the issue.

While 15 persons in total were interviewed in Istanbul, seven of these were considered and assessed in the survey. Interviews that are included in the survey report are those of social scientists working with CSEC victims, a sex worker, volunteers from civil society organizations and Roma organizations and a masseur. The report excludes those questions that source persons did not respond to.

A social sciences female faculty member in a university in Istanbul indicated that sexual exploitation of children in tourism is a problem in Turkey. From her former research from 1998 onwards as an academician and experience as a former police officer, she was describing child prostitution in night clubs, on the streets and in massage parlours in Istanbul and Antalya's touristic districts hinting poverty and sexual violence against girls within their circles of trust as main driving forces for SECTT:

"While I was doing my field studies, girls from 14 to 18 years of age used to work as hostesses in night clubs. There were also girls soliciting on the streets. Now they use young girls for prostitution in massage parlours and they are served to

private homes from these places. These are all well-known situations ..."

"It exists in tourism, especially in such places as Antalya and Alanya. Unfortunately, it takes place through the media as well. There are girls running away from their homes and going to Antalya in summer. They are exposed to physical and sexual violence there. And there are middlemen of course. In Istanbul, girls from poor families in particular are deceived, directed to massage parlours and sent to private homes."

"Tourism seems to be very open to this. The child is unprotected and his/her body is sold just like any commodity. It is because demand and wealth say the final word."

"Social workers are very important. Continued support given to traumatized children is also of critical importance. Security forces too need to be informed about the issue."

"It is important that there is awareness in general in society. Such cases can be prevented by legislation and effective practices. The media has its important role to play in this regard."

"There is a need to raise awareness. People have to know that children do not do it in their own will."

Previously mentioned PhD study seems to back claims made by the interviewee that girls as young as 13 were victims of SECTT in Istanbul.⁴⁶

There were interviews with two LGBTI volunteers in Istanbul. They work actively in different associations.

One interviewee was a male and worked as sex worker for 1.5 years.

"Sex workers start this [prostitution] early while they are children whereas LGBTIs might get involved in prostitution after adulthood. Most children I saw got involved in prostitution after 16."

*"The cause of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is related to 'supply and demand'. Poverty, lack of awareness and low educational status are other underlying causes."
"In prevention I believe that the primary measure should be introducing heavier penalties. Teachers*

46 Kaplan, op cit p. 109.

and health workers have their important roles in informing communities and families. One should directly report to and ask for help from the authorities in case any act of exploitation is witnessed."

The second interviewee was a female volunteer working in LGBTI field for 7 years.

"Sexual exploitation of children is a frequently confronted phenomenon. I heard about commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. The causes include the fragile and defenceless status of children and the material wealth and power of the person who exploits, I myself have had experiences of this type."

"Money means power. I worked in a night club and there were too many children. Tourists are ready to pay thousands of dollars to spend a night with a virgin. I remember some insisting to have a child company. If you are LGBTI the society pushes you out anyway. You are at the bottom if you are LGBTI. You have no security, your counterparts are some criminals and you can reach drugs, prostitution and all so easily."
(LGBTI NGO volunteer, Female)

"I believe that laws are important as a means of prevention while there is also need for change in social and cultural perspective of individuals. It is also important that schools give sexual education and teach human rights. The state should take child victims of commercial exploitation under protection."

There were interviews with two women and one man working for Roma associations with 12 to 18 years of experience as human rights defenders.

"The Roma children are sent out for begging and other street work starting from very early ages. But we have not heard about involvement of Roma children in commercial exploitation in travel and tourism."

"Talking about these issues so as to properly inform the society is critical in preventing commercial sexual exploitation of children which, in turn, requires a social state approach. Civil society organizations too have to be active on this issue. Social workers have their important roles as well. Schools and public health centres

should work in a coordinated manner with social workers. Community leaders should play their roles in this respect."

"As to preventive measures, priority is information building in society at large and schools teaching sexuality and rights. Sanctions introduced by the State may also be effective deterrents."

A person working as a masseur in Istanbul for 26 years was interviewed.

"I have no information about commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism, however I know young women work in massage parlours in some tourism spots. I think commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism especially in big cities is a common phenomenon."

Interviews in Ankara province covered one academician studying child abuse, an expert working in the same field, a judge, a forensic medicine expert, a judicial clerk, a lawyer, an intern lawyer and two volunteers from a LGBTI association.

An academic in Ankara studying child sexual abuse for 18 years

"Child sexual abuse is a quite common phenomenon in Turkey accompanied by gender discrimination which laid the ground for abuse. The children are used in prostitution and child marriages concluded in return for remuneration should be considered as sale of children."

"I have not witnessed any case of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism but heard about its existence in coastal areas. Motives could be economic or pleasure seeking, and the demand triggers the supply."

"There is need for mobile teams working in the field as well as child monitoring centres."

When asked about the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (the Code):

"I have no information about the Code. The responsibility for information building and supervision falls upon the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and TÜRSAB."

A forensic medicine expert in Ankara with 30 years of experience.

"I have not personally witnessed a case of commercial child exploitation in travel and tourism. Nevertheless, I know about such cases as having children of foreign nationality dressed up and with makeup as adults, female children from eastern regions are driven to commercial sexual activities and male children with mental problems are being used for the same purpose in some tourism centres in summer. Refugee children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation as well. Families of child victims are mostly economically disadvantaged. I think that SECTT is a demand-driven phenomenon."

When asked about the The Code:

"I have not heard about the Code and made no comment on the responsibilities of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and TÜRSAB."

A Judge with 27 years of experience in profession in Ankara.

"Child abuse is a common phenomenon in Turkey and bridal price a form of commercial exploitation. Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is a fact, both children living in poverty and tourism school interns are vulnerable to this kind of exploitation."

"I already referred to families in difficult economic circumstances. It is in such places as Adana, Hatay, Ankara and Antep. It has an invisible dimension as well. Schools send their students to various tourism facilities for their internship. They work as animators in these facilities and then start earning money by doing other things."

"It is fully economic. It is an easy source of money without any capital or investment. Given his defenceless and fragile status, the child is abused. It is thought that the child would not reveal the situation because of fear. So cases are discovered mostly by chance..."

"Legislation must be changed to prevent such cases and the training of security and judiciary personnel is also important."

When asked about the The Code:

"I have no information about the Code. I think the authority of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture is too limited and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and TÜRSAB may have their role in inspection work."

"Informing children about the issue is important and CSOs have their specific responsibilities in this regard. In any case of trafficking in human beings immediate contact and reporting to bar associations must be made."

A judicial clerk in charge of patient rights for five years and with 10 years of experience in child rights.

"I witnessed cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children over the internet."

"Children get organized and go to Antalya. They engage in prostitution there for a week or two and come back. I remember few cases of this. Masseurs are critical in sexual exploitation since this job is quite fragile. The child is content with what he or she is doing. They don't want to give any information. They tell you about their older places of work but not the new ones. Sometimes the police disguises as clients. There is mostly oral sex in massage parlours but there are some cases of sexual intercourse as well. The price is 400 TL in Antalya and 300 TL in Ankara. Now why would a child from a family earning 9,000 a month give himself away? I came across at least 50 such cases. They give different names while working in some places so it is difficult for the police to spot them."

"There was a case in Afyon; a man tells a child to come if he has any problem. They hide the child in secret places in the night club if there is any police raid. The child spends the night with a client for 300 TL. But bosses may seize the earnings of children and force them to work as slaves."

"These things are easy in Antalya. It is a place fit for such activities in all seasons. Girls from all age groups can find clients. There are quite a lot of LGBTI children in Ankara. They visit a dating website for LGBTI people called 'Gabile' to find themselves mates."

"I am informed about the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (the Code). I think primary responsibility in this area rests with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture which must introduce some new rules and practices. The TÜRSAB may be functional in training relevant agencies and conducting supervision. Informing the society and reaching special risk groups is also critical. There must be a reporting system to judicial authorities in any factual or suspected case of SECTT."

A lawyer dealing with child rights with 11 years of experience.

"There was a case that I followed. A 14 years old Syrian girl got married and her husband marketed her for prostitution."

"I do not personally witness, but heard about commercial sexual exploitation of children/child prostitution in travel and tourism. More specifically, I heard about some neighbourhoods of Istanbul, particularly those inhabited by Roma citizens as locations of such activities. There are even promotional initiatives telling people that they can engage in sex with children in specific areas of the city."

Staff of a LGBTI organization for eight years

"... The girl rises up and runs away for being forced to marry too early. Then she chooses to be a sex worker to sustain herself. But this is not the case for all early marriages of course. I mean, the case here in Turkey is not like that in Thailand for example. There are networks involved in this but they are not so large networks. 2-3 persons get together to make money out of it. There are rumours of larger and wider organized networks exist, but I know nothing about them. Neither is there any data from groups working on trafficking in human beings. But it is certain that some children are trafficked from abroad for this purpose."

Another staff member of a LGBTI CSO

"I know of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. I do not think that it is too common in tourism, but there are medium-scale enterprises such as night clubs that employ child animators."

"The penalty must be imposed upon clients regardless of the consent of the child or existence of a middleman."

Interviews in Antalya province covered 4 civil society workers, 3 human rights defenders and 4 tourism and hotel workers. Taxi drivers and people working in tourism agencies said they had no information about the issue. Altogether 21 persons were interviewed in Antalya and 11 of these interviews were evaluated.

Four civil society organization workers were interviewed in Antalya. All indicated that among victims, there are pupils, inters working in tourism facilities and young girls driven into prostitution by their male partners. There are children brought in from other countries for prostitution.

"This is a common problem. But since there are some making money out of this business neither they speak about it nor let others do. I can say this for prostitution: As a part of sub-contracting, many hotels rent their massage parlours and spa centres and many do not know what is going on in these places. But we heard that there were children from different countries working and they earned money through prostitution. These are children from other countries and we have no information if any Turkish children are involved." (Tourism worker, Male, 50 years old)

"I heard many times that rich persons come and take girls to hotels. Some people do this with more than one child. There are people from Arab countries coming here for small female children. Of course, there are some who act as intermediary and grab money from this." (Volunteer, Female, 30 years old)

"Such cases are rather in the districts of this province. They are admitted to hotels without declaring their identities. I witnessed this kind of prostitution. Probably there were some intermediaries like the father, uncle or elder sibling of the child concerned. There are some persons working as proxy between rich clients and fathers of children. These people serve sheiks, wealthy people coming from abroad. Such cases take place more frequently in summer months. It was age 18 or 20 before, now girls involved in may be as young as 8-9." (Volunteer, Female, 30 years old)

"There are sexually abused boys, but the majority are girls at age 15-16. Trafficking girls is more common in Antalya. They are mostly female children having their family problems at home. It is observed more commonly at tourism spots like Kuşadası in Aydın and Pamukkale in Denizli. Actually there is not much seasonal variation, but it is less visible in summer due to high number of foreign tourists." (Social worker, Female)

"It is more common in the Mediterranean region, in Antalya for instance. Trafficking in human beings takes place especially in summer. Since there are too many tourists around in summer months, cases become more invisible. But looking at statistics, we also see such cases in Istanbul too. There are middlemen of course, doing this as business. They bring girls from poor families to Turkey from abroad and sell them to Turks. Turks could not do it on their own if there were no such foreigners. It is a rule that there are middlemen speaking the native language of girls they trade." (Psychologist, Female, 26 years old)

"The Ministry of Tourism is supposed to follow the implementation of legislation and engage in supervising hotels on SECTT. It is important to ensure that the Union of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB) supervises its affiliates effectively and spot those that are engaged in illicit acts." (Psychologist, Female, 26 years old)

"It is necessary to reach persons engaged in this commercial exploitation; those wealthy people with high status in society. It is them who do it and we cannot do anything if these people are not reached." (Psychologist, Female, 26 years old)

Two women and one man all working in the field of human rights

Interviewees say children are involved in prostitution in Antalya.

"Women and girls of foreign nationality come to Antalya to earn money from prostitution. A foreign woman I once met told me that she knew Antalya as a place for this business. Besides, everybody knows that there are also persons from other parts of Turkey coming to Antalya for the same purpose. The State too knows it well." (Human rights defender, Male)

"This exploitation is quite common in Antalya. Small girls are taken to boats to be marketed as prostitution objects; not only in hotels; there are also girls taken to private houses for prostitution." (Human rights defender, Female)

"Antalya is the centre of prostitution in tourism and hotels doing this are known. Spa facilities for example; people come these places from other parts of the country seeking sex. There are houses as well. The majority of victims in this business are girls. Of course there is a middle stratum forming a class that intermediates. Within, it has its sub-classes as those establishing first contact with children, others who abduct them and lastly those who market young girls. They select their victims from among those having problems with their families and experiencing bipolar disorders. Girls are regarded as commodity. Girls are mostly aged 15-17, but there are smaller ones too. They are mostly from migrant families, having their special problems as ignorance, poverty and adaptation." (Human rights defender, Female, 30 years old)

"I think it turned out as a cultural phenomenon. Society regards woman as an object of sex. We have to break this apart. We have a patriarchal society. It both produces and is involved in prostitution. It erected a system and it is working now." (Human rights defender, Female, 30 years old)

There were in-depth interviews with 4 tourism workers in Antalya. They were all males in the age group 25-53 and work in this sector is the only form of employment in their working life.

All indicated that there is violence and prostitution in some night clubs. Also all indicated that girls working as interns in tourism, hotel keeping and guidance services are abused by their seniors. There are cases where interns are also used in prostitution. Both boys and girls used in prostitution in some clubs.

"In Antalya market, there are plenty of girls from such countries as Slovenia, France, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia and Finland. They are 15 to 18 years old." (Hotel worker, Male, 29 years old)

"This issue must be talked about with interns. It is difficult to find qualified personnel in tourism. Under the title "intern" there are many students working as slaves for some remuneration mostly

in hotels along the coastal areas. There are foreign children making their living in Turkey and we are trying to teach and train them, trying to provide for their safety and security. If we don't do this, then they may end up in prostitution to earn more. There are also some abused by hotel directors and other workers.” (Hotel Manager, Male, 53 years old)

“Coming to Turkish interns we see the same problem. There are some among them who see the sea for the first time; they may be abducted in hotels or elsewhere. We frequently hear about such things in this sector.” (Hotel Manager, Male, 53 years old)

Interviewees said this problem exists in Antalya and children were recruited specially for this purpose. While abducting children, both threat and serving drugs were used. Children living in poverty and children with domestic violence problems were targeted. Interviewees talked about girls brought in from foreign countries. It is stated that different methods were used to keep them in Antalya in winter without letting them go back to their countries, hinting child trafficking for sexual purposes, bonded labour and modern slavery.

“Tourist guide, travel agency man deceives the girl by promising her employment to keep her from going to her own country in winter; these people use the girl themselves first and then sell her to others.” (Hotel clerk, Male, 27 years old)

“This business goes in all two, three and four star hotels in Antalya. 70 % of girls involved are 17-18 year-old. The market in Antalya consists mostly of girls from Slovenia, France, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia and Finland. These 15-18 year-old girls are found in escort sites and social media and then directed to such places as Antalya, Izmir and Kuşadası. There are plenty of agencies arranging tours for this purpose. It takes place in hotels too. After sub-contracting has become common, hotels have their independent massage parlours many of which are used in this business. It is more common in summer. 70 % of children involved are girls and they are mostly from separated families.” (Hotel worker, Male, 29 years old)

Interviewees attached importance to supervision of internships and interns. One interviewee stated that trade unions too must be involved in preventive efforts. Also important, respondents said, is the training of workers in the tourism sector.

After being informed about the Code, two interviewees indicated that it would be too difficult to implement it in practice in Turkish tourism working conditions.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Although it is not directly linked to SECTT, because of recent flow of Syrian refugees in Turkey, it is decided to investigate CSEC and SECTT in Syrian refugee communities in a town along the Syrian border with refugee camps and high concentration of Syrian refugee population out of the camps. For this reason, Sanliurfa was selected as one of the localities for in-depth interviews.

Interviews conducted in Sanliurfa with 3 taxi drivers, 4 tradesmen and 3 volunteers working for/with refugees. There were actually interviews with 15 persons, but the reports of 10 of these were considered in this report.

Interviews in Sanliurfa covered tradesmen from 4 small-scale enterprises. All are males and natives of Sanliurfa. They are from the age interval 38-49.

“In general I don't have much information about it. But I know that girls in Sanliurfa used to be given out for marriage in return for money. Letting children marry at such early ages is sexual exploitation.” (Tradesman, Male, 43 years old)

It is stated that prostitution and early marriage are the priority problem areas in the context of sexual exploitation of children. There are no brothels in Sanliurfa, but it is stated that there are child prostitutes in private homes.

It is said that there are forms of sexual abuse and exploitation involving Syrian refugees including early marriage and prostitution. According to what tradesmen heard from their customers, there are special venues in the city where there are prostitution involving Syrian women, which did not exist before. One tradesman said he saw small girls taken out to somewhere in taxi cabs.

“Yes, that is true. Syrians sell their daughters for 5 to 7 thousand liras. These are Syrians; we don't do it as the people of Urfa. ‘Selling children for money’ sounds too dirty. Here we have what is called ‘milk money’, given to take bride's trousseau. Yes, I have my own observation. It was at midnight when I saw Syrian girls getting

into cars and cabs. My daily work ends at midnight and I saw this. In fact, taxi drivers know it well. Syrians let their daughters engage in prostitution to earn money” (Tradesman, Male, 49 years old)

“I mean there are very poor ones from among Syrian refugees; they are now out in streets almost starving and one can expect everything from them. They barely escaped death and they are desperate now. They are hungry, they need money badly and so prostitution or giving their daughters as brides is just normal for them.” (Tradesman, Male, 42 years old)

“As to Syrians we see them all around begging. I recently came across a 15-16 years old girl, she spoke little Turkish and she was holding a baby. I asked her why he wasn’t at home and where her husband was. She said she lost her husband in armed clashes two years ago. But it was apparent that the baby was only two months old. When I asked about it she said she didn’t have any other choice but doing this.” (Tradesman, Male, 43 years old)

“Yes I had a kind of observation. I had a client giving 5,000 TL to a Syrian girl to marry her. Further, he made her title holder of a real property. One morning he woke up to see that his wife had gone. I mean they swindle our people” (Tradesman, Male, 38 years old)

Interviews with 3 staff members of CSOs in Şanlıurfa with 5 to 15 years’ experience. Interviewees were from the age group 30-36, all three were males.

“Of course there is. One Syrian man was selling his children and wife for money. The woman came to us without the knowledge of her

husband to ask for help. We referred her to the bar association. At night they send 15-16 years old girls out to sell paper napkins as disguise for prostitution.” (Activist, Male, 35 years old)

It is stated that photos of women in refugee camps are collected in special catalogues for the purpose of prostitution related marketing.

Interviews with 3 taxi drivers of the age group 25-55 with 5-29 years of experience.

“I personally saw this. They take Syrian women and girls in cars and cruise around neighbourhoods, which does not seem as a normal thing. It is obvious that they engage in prostitution. They are too young. There are two types of people organizing such things for money 1- Syrians themselves, 2- Some local people from Urfa without any honour. But Syrians alone cannot do this without any local assistance. Syrians launch unlicensed cafes here to market women and girls. But they can’t do it without local help. They also enjoy the support of people of Arabic origin living in Urfa. Ages star from 15 and go up to 50; some security people are also involved.” (Driver, Male, 35 years old)

There are a number of credible reports from NGOs backing up claims made by the interviewees about sexual exploitation of Syrian refugees in Turkey such as the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation,⁴⁷ the Association for Human Rights and Solidarity for the Oppressed which reported average age of girls sold for sex is 15-18, however girls as young as 13 are also sold.^{48 49}

There are also several media reports on CSEC of Syrian refugee girls backing up what interviewees were saying including child marriages and short term marriages (mut’ah) in Turkey.^{50 51 52}

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48 MAZLUMDER. (2014). The Report on Syrian Women Refugees Living out of the Camps in Turkey. Pp 31-33. Retrieved from <http://j.mp/MAZLUMDER-Syrian-girls>

49 Zaman, A. (2014, May 30). Claims of prostitution in refugee camps. Today’s Zaman. Retrieved from http://www.todayszaman.com/turkish-press-review_claims-of-prostitution-in-refugee-camps_349168.html

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KNOWLEDGE OF SECTT AMONGST TOURISM AND TRAVEL STUDENTS

Students of Social Sciences College Department of Tourism and Hotel Management receive education to serve in different parts of tourism sector. The point is that sensitivity to cases of this particular violation of the rights of the child and having sufficient information on the problem will equip them to prevent and help in prospective and actual cases of child exploitation.

The survey launched to explore the level of information and opinion on commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism of students from Hacettepe University Social Sciences College Department of Tourism and Hotel Management reached 79 students in total.

Main findings of the survey are as follows:

- 11.4 % of respondents think there is no such problem in Turkey as sexual and commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism.
- Almost half (45 %) of respondents mentioned low level of awareness on the part of public as the main cause of children's sexual and commercial exploitation.
- About a quarter of students (26.9 %) have no information about the Code of Conduct related to their profession.
- About one-third (36.5 %) of students think being informed about the Code of Conduct is important in preventing cases of sexual and commercial exploitation of children.

- Again about one-third (36.7 %) of students have heard about such cases and mainly through the media.
- Students refer to behaviour (content of talks, state of evasion) and psychology (fear, hesitancy, being withdrawn, panic etc.) of children as indicators of sexual and commercial exploitation.
- There were nine students who say there were cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in their places of internship.
- For preventing such cases in travel and tourism, students firstly suggest heavier penalties, then strict application and inspection and awareness building.

74.7 % of responding students say it is girls that are victimized by sexual and commercial exploitation in travel and tourism. 59.5 % say perpetrators are males while 24.5% think perpetrators could be both male and female tourists. About half (48.1 %) of students state both domestic and foreign tourists are engaged in CSEC. According to students, parties to be held responsible for this offence includes underground organizations/gangs/mafia (51.9 %) and hotel managers (16.9 %) while 28.6 % of students have no idea about it.

58.2 % of students think that police should be called in in case of any abuse, 24.1 % say there must be reporting to authorities and 12.7 % say the owner of the facility must be informed. 70.9 % of respondents say both the perpetrator and proxy are penalized in case of CSEC while 21.5 % say there is no punitive sanction in such cases (Table 14).

Table 14. Participants' Opinions Concerning Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of the Child

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Victim's sex		
Female child	59	74.7
Male child	1	1.3
Female and male children	8	10.1
No idea	11	13.9
Total	79	100.0
Tourist's sex		
Male	47	59.5
Female	2	2.5
Males and females	19	24.1
No idea	11	13.9
Total	79	100.0

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Tourist's origin		
Domestic	31	39.2
Foreign	3	3.8
Both domestic and foreign	38	48.1
No idea	7	8.9
Total	79	100.0
Person causing victimization		
Tourism firms	2	2.6
Hotel managements	13	16.9
Underground organizations/crime groups/mafia	40	51.9
No idea	22	28.6
Total	75	100.0
To be done in case witnessing a case of abuse		
Reporting to the police	46	58.2
Reporting to the person in charge of the place	10	12.7
Reporting	19	24.1
Doing nothing	-	-
No idea	4	5.1
Total	79	100.0
Sanction to be applied to:		
Perpetrator	5	6.3
Intermediary	1	1.3
	56	70.9
No sanction	17	21.5
Total	79	100.0

73.1 % of students say they are informed about the Code of Conduct developed for those working in the sector of tourism. 93 % of respondents think sexual abuse is a problem existing in Turkey while 88.6 % say victimization of children by commercial and sexual exploitation is a fact in tourism. According to students, the causes of this problem in travel and tourism include low level of awareness in society (45 %), gaps and problems in implementation and supervision (17.5 %), inadequate legislative arrangements (12.5 %) and socio-economic reasons (10 %). The lack of commitment to the child on the part of the State, evil-minded people abducting

children, lack of education, raising male children as superior to the other sex and limited importance attached to raising the girl child are given as some other reasons (Table 15).

41.8% of students said they read some material about commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. According to participants, people working in the sector must be informed about the following: The Code of Conduct (36.5 %), authority to report cases of commercial sexual exploitation (20.9 %), international (14.2 %) and national (8.8 %) legislation and definition of children's sexual commercial exploitation (Table 15).

Table 15. Information and Opinion of Participants Concerning Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Abiding by Code of Conduct		
Yes	57	73.1
No	21	26.9
Total	78	100.0
Is sexual abuse a problem in Turkey?		
Yes	72	92.3
No	3	3.8
I don't know	3	3.8
Total	78	100.0
Whether tourism related CSEC victimization is a problem in the country		
Yes	70	88.6
No	3	3.8
I don't know	6	7.6
Total	79	100.0
Causes of CSEC victimization *		
Low level of awareness in society	36	45.0
Problems in implementation and supervision	14	17.5
Legislative arrangements	10	12.5
Socioeconomic causes	8	10.0
All	8	10.0
Other**	4	5.0

*N=80

**The lack of commitment to the child on the part of the State, evil-minded people abducting children, lack of education, raising male children as superior to the other sex and limited importance attached to raising the girl child.

35.7 % of students said they witnessed/heard about cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Among sources of hearing about there is the media (28 %), friends (20 %), school mates (16 %) and places of internship, books, teachers, etc. (36 %) (Table 16).

Table 16. Information and Opinion of Participants Concerning Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Reading articles about CSEC		
Yes	33	41.8
No	46	58.2
What employees need to know*		
Code of conduct	54	36.5
Where to report	31	20.9
International legislation	21	14.2
Definition	19	12.8
National legislation	13	8.8
All	10	6.8
Witnessing CSEC		
Yes	25	35.7
No	45	64.3
Source of hearing about CSEC		
Media	7	28.0
Friends	5	20.0
Schoolmates in college	4	16.0
Family/relatives	2	8.9
College teachers	2	8.0
Other**	9	36.0

*N=148

**Place of work, books, high school teacher/friend, magazines, news, etc.

Information Concerning Cases Witnessed

Nine students from the survey group gave information about cases they personally witnessed. These cases are as follows: The chief of the butchery section in the facility taking unpermitted photos of girls; forcing juniors at the facility to work longer than 8 hours a day; incoming tourists communicating with others in a harassing manner; verbal harassment in the place of internship; attempt to assault a female intern in a hotel; harassment of an intern by other workers in the facility; verbal and physical harassment of female interns in Antalya; disturbing behaviour and talking; a master trying to contact a female worker bodily behind a bench, etc.

Students considered the following as possible indicators of commercial sexual exploitation in relation to children: State of fear, hesitation and panic (26.7%), behaviour of other persons working in the same place (24.4%), child's way of talking or not being able to talk (15.6%), talk by clients at the workplace (15.6%) and existence small children working for long hours (8.7%) (Table 17).

Table 17. Cases that may give rise to suspicion about the victimization of children by sexual and commercial exploitation in tourism sector.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR *	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Child's state of fear, panic and being hesitant and withdrawn	12	26.7
Behaviour of employees at the workplace	11	24.4
Child's way of talking, sexually loaded discourse	7	15.6
Chats at the workplace	7	15.6
Child's behaviour, state of being ready to run away	5	11.1
Employment at early ages, long working hours	4	8.7
Coercion	3	6.7
Safe entry/exit	2	4.4
Employees profile (judicial record)	1	2.2
Behaviour of boarded guests	1	2.2
Location of the enterprise	1	2.2
Witnessing	1	2.2
Insufficient supervision	1	2.2
Cultural differences	1	2.2

*Percentages do not add up to 100 since more than one answer is given

To prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation in travel and tourism, 32.1 % of students suggested heavy penalties in such cases, 22.6 % favour regular and strict inspections, 20.8 % attach importance to awareness building in society and 18.9 % regard information building among and trainings to tourism sector workers as essential (Table 18).

Table 18. What needs to be done, according to participants, to prevent children's victimization by sexual and commercial exploitation in tourism?

PREVENTION*	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Heavy penalty	17	32.1
Regular supervision	12	22.6
Building awareness	11	20.8
Informing (public at large, employees)	10	18.9
Legislative arrangement	9	16.9
Ensuring reporting of cases	6	11.3
Training of children	5	9.4
Selecting good-profile employees	2	3.8
Support to victims	1	1.9

*Percentages do not add up to 100 since more than one answer is given

46.5 % of students think that the media and experts should be mobilized to inform the public (i.e. advertisements, TV, etc.). 53.2 % suggest information and awareness building, 23.3 % seminars and trainings and 23.3 % heavy penalties and legal arrangements (Table 19).

Table 19. What needs to be done, according to participants, to make the society more sensitive to prevent the victimization of children by sexual and commercial exploitation in tourism?

PREVENTION*	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Informing the public (with the media, experts, etc.)	20	46.5
Building consciousness	13	30.2
Heavy penalties and legislative arrangement	10	23.3
Seminars and trainings	10	23.3
Posters, brochures, questionnaires	3	7.0
Keeping the issue in agenda	3	6.8
News features about the issue	2	4.6
Support to victims and their families	1	2.3

*Percentages do not add up to 100 since more than one answer is given

CHAPTER 3

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Information obtained from reported cases and in-depth interviews with key informants suggest that commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is happening in Turkey. Both Turkish and foreign children including refugee children, majority of them girls, are abused and exploited in travel and tourism.

Information obtained suggest that commercial sexual exploitation may take place, especially in touristic areas, in small tourism enterprises, private homes, spa centres, massage parlours, yachts, etc. It also involves many intermediaries. It was stressed that particularly wealthy tourists seek such experiences.

A number of suggestions obtained throughout the in-depth interviews such as information and awareness raising in society, families and children. Informing the society about safe and healthy sexuality is necessary to eliminate the demand side in sexual abuse in travel and tourism.

Commercial or non-commercial abuse of girls and young women during their internships in tourism and travel sector must absolutely be eliminated with strict supervision of internships in tourism facilities.

The monitoring system will be strengthened if commercial sexual exploitation of children is addressed in a separate article in the Turkish Penal Code and if victims are taken separately as minors and adults.

It is stated that Syrian refugee girls in Turkey are victimized by various forms of sexual exploitation including prostitution and early marriage.

Statements made by local people in Şanlıurfa that female refugees from Syria are used in prostitution and given as brides in return for money mean that the State has to take more effective measures.

The survey suggests there is need to raise the level of awareness of students who have chosen their career as professional workers in tourism.

The curriculum that these students follow with their plans for professional career in travel and tourism must include courses that would improve their information and knowledge of the Code and of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in general.

Another necessity in the context of implementation and supervision is working in cooperation with professionals in planning relevant activities to sensitize the public.

Following set of recommendations are drawn from the consultation meetings of the Network against CSEC in Turkey to support aforementioned recommendations from the study:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Preventive measures

- Starting from early childhood children, parents, professional providing care, protection, education, legal and psychosocial services to children and society at large should be provided with national scale information campaigns and training on child sexual exploitation with the involvement of all relevant ministries and CSOs.
- Gender equality and sexual health and reproductive health education should be introduced into the curriculum by the Ministry of National Education.
- Introduce new clauses concerning child protection from sexual exploitation into the “Law Concerning Travel Agencies and the Association of Travel Agencies” and the “Travel Agents Regulation.”

Protective measures

- Security and justice service providers need to be cognizant of the fact that SECTT and CSEC victims are not only victims but also witnesses of crimes, those children require urgent protection and care! As a part of child protection system, integrated services such as psychosocial, medical, legal, emergency, rehabilitation services should be provided to children according to their rights and development needs with multidisciplinary teams of experts, like the ones in newly established Child Monitoring Centres and university based child protection units.
- SECTT and CSEC victims should not be taken to security or judicial units, instead such children should be taken to child friendly protection facilities which need to be established.
- Mandatory reporting of SECTT and CSEC cases by health, child care, education and social services professionals need to be better regulated in law and in practice to avoid fear of reprisals in small rural and urban settings.

Prosecution

- SECTT/CSEC victim's testimony should be taken only once by qualified professionals to minimise secondary trauma of the investigation,
- SECTT/CSEC court cases that started in first instance courts and transferred to criminal courts legal procedures should not be repeated for the best interest of the child,
- Inconsistent figures in CSEC (trafficking and prostitution) and sexual abuse cases in courts suggest that there may be risk of impunity in CSEC cases. This risk needs to be evaluated well and counter measures must be taken to quell impunity in sexual exploitation cases,

Rehabilitation

- Consistent with the number of court cases involving child sexual exploitation and abuse, a budget should be allocated to care and rehabilitation services to children, just like the existing security and judicial services budget,
- Existing rehabilitation services must be diversified with the rights and holistic needs of the SECTT/CSEC victims. Services should be developed with participation of the child victims to accommodate their particular needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

- Longitudinal national scale research on CSEC (prevalence, risk factors, geographical propensities, trends in time) should be supported by the scientific institutions to enable evidence based policies to end CSEC and SECTT.
- Develop a research agenda on CSEC and all of its manifestations in Turkey with the participation of Scientific Technological Research Council of Turkey and Turkish Academy of Sciences.
- With the participation of Higher Education Council, include child rights and child protection in the curricula of all relevant fields of study, starting from schools of medicine, law, social work, education, humanities and social sciences.
- With the participation of Ministry of National Education and Higher Education Council, include the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism into the curricula of tourism vocational high schools and tourism and hospitality studies in universities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

- Sign up to the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.
- Work with the Network against CSEC in Turkey to provide training to staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- The Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) as the main civil society organisation of the industry to sign up to the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, because The TURSAB's leadership is key to involve the sector in ending child sexual exploitation in tourism and travel.
- The Network against CSEC to prepare training and awareness raising materials with/for the tourism and travel sector together with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and the TURSAB and other industry authorities and deliver and disseminate with them.

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ANNEX I

DATA COLLECTION FORMS FOR QUALITATIVE SURVEY

Public sector employees (*judges, prosecutors, social workers, physicians, psychiatrists, nurses, managers*) Those working in UN agencies or international organizations

Name/Last Name

Age:

Sex:

1. What is your status in your workplace? For how long have you been in this status?
2. Since when you are interested in issues of child rights and child abuse?
3. What do you think about the sexual exploitation of children in our country?
4. Which problem areas come to the fore in Turkey in relation to sexual exploitation of children? (*Child marriage, prostitution, pornography etc.*)
5. What do you think about sexual and commercial exploitation of children in our country? Have you had any observation on this issue?
6. There are some sayings about children's commercial exploitation/child prostitution in travel and tourism in Turkey. What do you think about this? Do you have any observation /information about it?
7. In relation to commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Turkey;
 - In which regions-areas does it exist?,
 - How it takes place,
 - Who are involved? Whether there are intermediaries,
 - Sex, age and family characteristics of children involved
 - Whether there are seasonal variations
8. In your opinion what is the cause of commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism?
9. In your opinion how can commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism be prevented?
 - a. Legislative arrangements
 - b. Implementation and supervision
 - c. Awareness building
10. In your opinion which professionals' information and skills must be developed to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism?
11. Have you heard about CODE practice in travel and tourism? Can you explain it?

(After giving information about CODE)

12. What can the Ministry of Tourism do?
13. What can TÜRSAB do?
14. What can be done at community level to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism?
15. What must be done when sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is noticed?

ANNEX I

DATA COLLECTION FORMS FOR QUALITATIVE SURVEY

Masseurs/ masseuses in massage parlours

Civil society organizations of sex workers (*President, secretary, board member, member*)

Civil society organizations of the Roma (*President, secretary, board member, member*)

Name/Last Name

Age:

Sex:

1. What is your status in your job? For how long?
2. What do you think about the sexual exploitation of children in our country?
3. Which problem areas come to the fore in Turkey in relation to sexual exploitation of children? (*Child marriage, prostitution, pornography etc.*)
4. What do you think about sexual and commercial exploitation of children in our country? Have you had any observation on this issue?
5. There are some sayings that there are cases of commercial exploitation of children in massage parlours, prostitution, companies, Roma groups, travel and tourism. What do you think about this? Any observation of your own?
6. In relation to commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Turkey;
 - In which regions-areas does it exist?
 - How it takes place?
 - Who are involved? Whether there are intermediaries,
 - Sex, age and family characteristics of children involved
 - Whether there are seasonal variations
7. In your opinion what is the cause of commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism?
8. In your opinion how can commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism be prevented?
 - Legislative arrangements
 - Implementation and supervision
 - Awareness building
9. In your opinion which professionals' information and skills must be developed to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism
10. What must be done when sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is noticed?

ANNEX I

DATA COLLECTION FORMS FOR QUALITATIVE SURVEY

Employees of tourism agencies *(office workers, guides, hotel workers, agency personnel, etc.)*

Name/Last Name

Age:

Sex:

1. What is your status in your job? For how long?
2. Since when you are interested in issues of child rights and child abuse?
3. What do you think about the sexual exploitation of children in our country?
4. Which problem areas come to the fore in Turkey in relation to sexual exploitation of children?*(Child marriage, prostitution, pornography etc.)*
5. What do you think about sexual and commercial exploitation of children in our country? Have you had any observation on this issue?
6. There are sayings that there is commercial exploitation of children/child prostitution in travel and tourism in Turkey. What do you think about this? Any observation of your own?
7. In relation to commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Turkey;
 - In which regions-areas does it exist?
 - How it takes place,
 - Who are involved? Whether there are intermediaries,
 - Sex, age and family characteristics of children involved
 - Whether there are seasonal variations
8. In your opinion what is the cause of commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism?
9. In your opinion how can commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism be prevented?
 - Legislative arrangements
 - Implementation and supervision
 - Awareness building
10. In your opinion which professionals' information and skills must be developed to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism?
11. Have you heard about CODE practice in travel and tourism? Can you explain it?

(After giving information about CODE)

12. What can the Ministry of Tourism do?
13. What can TÜRSAB do?
14. What must be done at community level to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in travel and tourism?
15. What must be done when sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is noticed?

ANNEX I

DATA COLLECTION FORMS FOR QUALITATIVE SURVEY

Those working in refugee camps (*i.e. people working in relevant national and international organizations*)
Employees in small and medium size enterprises (*tradesmen, people working in enterprises*)
Taxi driver

Name/Last Name

Age:

Sex:

1. For how long have you been living in this area?
2. For how long have you been doing this job?
3. What do you think about the sexual exploitation of children in our country?
4. Which problem areas come to the fore in Turkey in relation to sexual exploitation of children?(*Child marriage, prostitution, pornography etc.*)
5. It is said that the children of migrants in this area face sexual and commercial exploitation. Have you had any observation on this issue?
6. It is said that young girls in this area are given as brides in return for money. Have you had any observation on this issue?
7. How do you think commercial exploitation of children in this area can be prevented?
 - Legislative arrangements
 - Implementation and supervision
 - Awareness building
8. In your opinion which professionals' information and skills must be developed to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in this area?
9. What can be done at community level to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in this area?
10. What must be done when sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in this area is noticed?

ANNEX II

DATA COLLECTION FORMS FOR QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

Information and Opinions of Students of Hacettepe University Social Sciences College Department of Tourism and Hotel Keeping Concerning Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism

Dear students

This survey intends to contribute to the planning of services to prevent child sex tourism. In this context we would like to learn about your opinions as well.

As per methodology adopted in the survey your identity and related information is not required. Information collected through this questionnaire will not be used for purposes other than the objective of the survey. Thank you for your participation.

I agree to participate ()
 I refuse to participate ()

Hacettepe University
 Public Health Institute

Questionnaire no:
 Grade:

1. Your birthday (day, month and year)/...../ 19.....
2. Your sex
 - Male
 - Female
3. In which province did you finish high school
 Mark the place where you finished high school
 - Metropolitan city
 - Province centre
 - District centre
 - Other (please specify.....)
4. Please give information about your parents by placing (x) in relevant boxes

	MOTHER	FATHER
Write age
Educational status		
Illiterate		
Literate		
Primary School graduate		
Secondary school graduate		
High school graduate		
University or college graduate		
Employment status		
Yes, working for remuneration		
No, not working at present		
Retired		

5. Please mark the type of your family
 - Nuclear family (*consisting of parents and children*)
 - Extended family (*others besides parents and their children*)
 - Single parent family (*as a result of separation, divorce or demise*)
 - Other (*please specify:.....*)
6. Do you have siblings?
 - Yes (*Number of children in the family other than yourself*)
 - No
7. In which province does your family live? (*Please specify:.....*)
8. Select the place where your family lives
 - Metropolitan city
 - Province centre
 - District centre
 - Village/town
 - Other, please specify:
9. How would you rank the income status of your family?
 - Very low
 - Low
 - Medium
 - High
 - Very high
10. Where are you staying now?
 - Home
 - Dorm
 - Guest house
 - Other please specify:
11. Did you have any internship?
 - Yes
 - No
12. In how many enterprises?.....

Place of first internship...

13. Did you find this place of internship through your school/department?
 - Yes
 - No
14. For how long this internship was?.....
15. In which province did you have your internship?
16. Where did you have your internship?
 - Tourism enterprise (hotel, motel, holiday camp, auberge, etc.)
 - Tourism company (travel agency)
 - Restaurant
 - Other, please specify:

17. How was the client profile in the place where you had your internship?
- Mostly foreigners
 - Half foreigners
 - Mostly Turkish
 - No idea

Place of second internship...

18. Did you find your place of internship through your school/department?
- Yes
 - No
19. For how long this internship was?.....
20. In which province did you have your second internship?
21. Where did you have your second internship?
- Tourism enterprise (hotel, motel, holiday camp, auberge, etc.)
 - Tourism company (travel agency)
 - Restaurant
 - Other, please specify:
22. How was the client profile in the place where you had your second internship?
- Mostly foreigners
 - Half foreigners
 - Mostly Turkish
 - No idea

ATTENTION!

Please respond to questions that follow according to the following definitions:

Child sex tourism: Act of an adult travelling from one place to another to engage in sexual acts with children.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children: Commercial sexual exploitation of children is to use children for sexual purposes in return for cash, property or in kind favours that may also involve third parties

23. In your opinion, which sex constitutes the majority of victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children?
- Female children
 - Male children
 - Both
 - No idea
24. In your opinion, what is the sex of tourists who visit the area for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation of children?
- Female
 - Male
 - Both
 - No idea

25. In your opinion are tourists visiting the area for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation of children domestic visitors or foreigners?
- Domestic
 - Foreigners
 - Both
 - No idea
26. In your opinion who causes the victimization of children by commercial sexual abuse?
- Tourism companies
 - Hotel managements
 - Underground organizations/mafia
 - No idea
27. What must be done in case someone witnesses a case of child's commercial sexual abuse in tourism?
- Calling the police
 - Informing the person in charge of the place
 - Reporting
 - Nothing
 - No idea
28. Have you heard about professional code of conduct in tourism?
- Yes
 - No
29. Is there any penalty in case a child is victimized by commercial sexual exploitation?
- Yes, to the perpetrator
 - Yes, to the intermediary
 - Both
 - No
30. Do you think sexual abuse is a problem in our country?
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
31. Do you think victimization of children by commercial sexual exploitation in tourism is a problem in our country?
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
32. What causes the victimization of children by commercial sexual exploitation in tourism?
- Gaps in legislation
 - Low level of public awareness
 - Socioeconomic causes
 - Problems in implementation and supervision
 - Other.....
33. So far have read any article mentioning about the victimization of children by commercial sexual exploitation in tourism?
- Yes
 - No
34. What kind of information do tourism workers need to prevent children's commercial sexual exploitation in tourism? *(You can mark more than one choice)*

ANNEX III

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT

Of students interviewed, 45.6% are freshmen and 32.9% are sophomores. 78.5% are females and average age is 19.98 (Average (SS): 19,98 (1,6)). All students interviewer completed their secondary education in Ankara. While 64.6% of these students had their secondary education in a metropolitan high school, 26.6% finished high school in a district of Ankara Province.

93.7% of students state that they had at least one internship experience during their studies in this school. The places of 70.7% of first internship were fixed by the school. 98.7% of students had their first internship in Ankara and 44% in a tourism enterprise. Antalya is stated as the second place of internship. 66.2% of respondents said the majority of clients in their first place of internship were Turkish citizens while 23% said half of their clients were foreigners. The average duration of internship is 6 months. Average (SS): 6.33 (4.3)

In the second internship, 68.5% of internship places were fixed by the school. The second internship took place mostly in a tourism enterprise (66.7%) while there were also internships in a state institution fixed again by the school. As to client profile, 46.3% were interns in a facility with Turkish clients in majority, 25.9% in facilities where half of clients were foreigners and 20.4% in facilities where foreigners were in majority.

Table 19. Participants' Internship Characteristics during their School Years

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Internship		
Yes	75	93.7
No	4	6.3
First internship place		
School fixed it	53	70.7
I fixed it	22	29.3
First internship province		
Ankara	74	98.7
Antalya	1	1.3
First internship place		
Tourism enterprise	33	44.0
Restaurant	7	9.3
Other*	35	46.7
Client profile in first internship		
Mostly foreigners	2	2.7
Half foreigners	17	23.0
Mostly Turkish	49	66.2
No idea	6	8.1

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Second internship place		
School fixed it	37	68.5
I fixed it	17	31.5
Second internship province		
Ankara	48	88.9
Antalya	4	7.5
İstanbul	1	1.7
London	1	1.7
Second internship place		
Tourism enterprise	36	66.7
Restaurant	6	11.1
Tourism company	1	1.9
Other*	11	20.3
Client profile in second internship		
Mostly foreigners	11	20.4
Half foreigners	14	25.9
Mostly Turkish	25	46.3
No idea	4	7.4

ANNEX IV

ETHICS BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE SURVEY



T.C.
HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ
Girişimsel Olmayan Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu

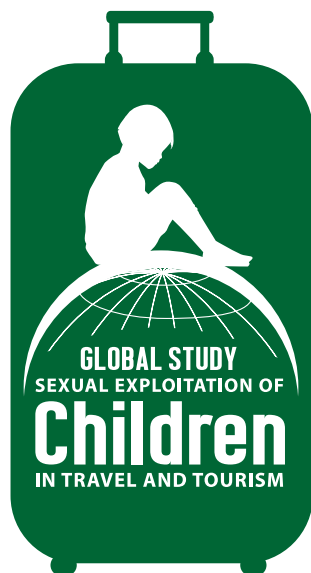
Sayı : 16969557 -98

ARAŞTIRMA PROJESİ DEĞERLENDİRME RAPORU

Toplantı Tarihi : 21.01.2015 ÇARŞAMBA
Toplantı No : 2015/02
Proje No : GO 14/647 (Değerlendirme Tarihi: 17.12.2014)
Karar No : GO 14/647 - 11

Üniversitemiz Halk Sağlığı Enstitüsü öğretim üyelerinden Prof.Dr. Hilal ÖZCEBE'nin sorumlu araştırmacısı olduğu, Dr. Burcu Küçük BİÇER ile birlikte çalışacakları GO 14/647 kayıt numaralı ve "*Hacettepe Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Meslek Yüksek Okulu Turizm ve Otel İşletmeciliği Bölümü Öğrencilerinin Seyahat ve Turizmde Çocuğa Yönelik Ticari Sömürü Konusundaki Bazı Bilgi ve Düşünceleri*" başlıklı proje önerisi araştırmanın gerekçe, amaç, yaklaşım ve yöntemleri dikkate alınarak incelenmiş olup, tıbbi etik açıdan uygun bulunmuştur.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Prof. Dr. Nurten Akarsu (Başkan) | 9 Prof. Dr. Rahime Nohutçu (Üye) |
| 2. Prof. Dr. Nüket Örnek Buken (Üye) | 10. Prof. Dr. R. Köksal Özgül (Üye) |
| 3. Prof. Dr. M. Yıldırım Sara (Üye) | 11. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Lale Doğan (Üye) |
| 4. Prof. Dr. Sevda F. Müftüoğlu (Üye) | 12. Doç. Dr. S. Kutay Demirhan (Üye) |
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| 7. Prof. Dr. Ali Düzova (Üye) | |
| 8. Yrd. Doç. Dr. H. Hüsrev Turnagöl (Üye) | |



**The Global Study was made possible thanks to financial support from the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands through Defence for Children
- ECPAT Netherlands**



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

