

**CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING  
IN HUMAN BEINGS IN FRANCE**

**#**

**INVISIBLES...**



Identifying and supporting child victims  
of trafficking for...

- domestic servitude,
- sexual exploitation,
- forced begging,
- incitement to commit crimes,
- and exploitation in sport through deception

**CONTRE  
LA TRAITE  
DES ÊTRES HUMAINS**

# Child trafficking\* is a little-known reality in France.

**It takes very diverse forms, including** sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, incitement to commit crimes, forced begging, trafficking in relation to professional sport, and more.

- 2 Trafficking in human beings must be prosecuted and sanctioned and child victims of trafficking must be identified and protected (Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, articles 1, 4, 10, 12 and 24).

\*

**ARTICLE I OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS  
OF THE CHILD**

For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

**AN AWARENESS-  
RAISING TOOL**

or the public,  
volunteers and  
professionals

## #CONTENTS

<b>Why the title #INVISIBLES?</b>	p. 4
<b>Definition of child trafficking</b>	p. 6
<b>The impact of trafficking on children</b>	p. 8
<b>Indicators to identify possible victims of child trafficking</b>	p. 10
<b>Preconceptions about child trafficking in France</b>	p. 11
<b>How to approach the young people affected.</b>	p. 12
<b>A topical issue: trafficking and migration</b>	p. 14
<i>Fact sheets</i>	
<b>Domestic servitude</b>	p. 16
<b>Sexual exploitation</b>	p. 28
<b>Forced begging</b>	p. 40
<b>Incitement to commit crimes</b>	p. 52
<b>Exploitation in sport through deception</b>	p. 58
<b>How to combat trafficking effectively.</b>	p. 64
<b>Useful contacts</b>	p. 65
<b>The “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective</b>	p. 66

# Why the title #INVISIBLES ?

**Trafficking in human beings is seen in France as a tragedy that happens elsewhere. The same applies – but even more so – to child trafficking and exploitation.**

Our aim in this short film and the document you have in front of you is to bring the invisible into view. That's why we've called them #INVISIBLES, using the # symbol (hashtag) used on Twitter to start a discussion topic or share a common interest. Social media have now become another way of raising public awareness, so please feel free to share our documents and visit [www.contrelatraite.org](http://www.contrelatraite.org).

**The short film #INVISIBLES is based on actual facts. It aims to focus public attention on the trafficking and exploitation of minors in France today.**

The film lasts 15 minutes and is intended for use in awareness-raising sessions. Whether it is shown in a school or community environment, or as part of a symposium, meeting or film festival, it will help both younger and older viewers to discover the reality of these hidden tragedies.

- From domestic servitude to trafficking for sexual exploitation or being forced to beg, the film takes a brief look at how the paths of the children who suffer trafficking of this kind – the #INVISIBLES of our cities – are interwoven. As they go on, they will find support from associations working to combat trafficking in human beings.

**#INVISIBLES is also available as three mini-films, each exploring one of these different forms of trafficking and exploitation.** Each mini-film can be viewed separately. The film is split into three stories involving five children, who are either victims of these various forms of trafficking and exploitation, exposed to the same risks, or victims of prejudice like the young Romanian, Kalo.

**Professional film makers, children and association members...**

This film is the result of a joint effort by scriptwriters, the director and member associations of the “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective working on the ground. The aim is to bring a subject that is currently taboo out of the closed circuit of people who specialise in child trafficking. How can the general public, youth workers, social workers, health professionals, police officers, judges, and national and international institutions gain a better understanding of the scourge of trafficking in young people, each at their own level of involvement, to provide better protection for these #INVISIBLES? Discussions can be organised with the film’s actors, extras and professionals, specialist associations and institutional players.

**The accompanying booklet has been produced by the “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective, coordinated by Secours Catholique – Caritas France, alongside the film #INVISIBLES.** It is illustrated with photographs from the shoot, showing the adult and child actors involved, both professionals and amateurs. The cartoon strips illustrate the three stories in the film, while the “true stories” tell the reality, here in France, of these children’s stolen lives, in all their complexity and individuality. The booklet also includes tips on detecting, identifying, supporting, alerting, guiding and more.

We hope that this short film and its accompanying documents – cartoon strips, leaflets, posters, fact sheets, etc. – will raise public awareness about these modern-day tragedies the associations are fighting.

**ARTICLE 35 OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS  
OF THE CHILD**

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.

# Definition of child trafficking

**In France, trafficking in human beings is defined in the Act of 5 August 2013. Trafficking in human beings is the fact of recruiting, transporting, transferring, lodging or receiving someone with a view to exploitation in one of the following circumstances:**

- 1** Involving the use of threats, coercion, violence or deception aimed at the victim, their family or someone in regular contact with the victim;
- 2** By the person's legitimate, natural or adoptive ascendant relative or a person who has authority over them or abuses the authority conferred by their position;
- 3** By abusing a situation of vulnerability due to their age, an illness, infirmity, physical disability or mental health issue, or pregnancy, which is either apparent or known to the perpetrator;
- 4** In return for or by offering compensation or any benefit or a promise of compensation of benefits.

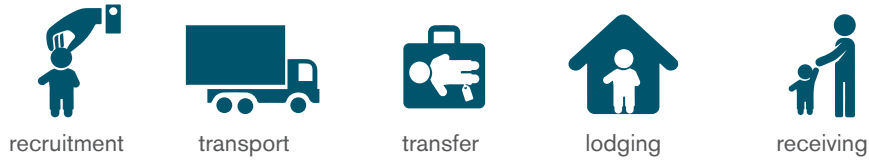
The exploitation referred to in the first paragraph of article I is the fact of using the victim or making them available to a third party, even an unidentified party, to enable offences to be committed in respect of the victim, of procuring, sexual assault or abuse, enslavement, forced labour or the forced provision of services, reducing to servitude, the removal of an organ, exploitation of begging, housing or working conditions that are contrary to human dignity, or forcing the victim to commit any crime or offence. Trafficking in human beings is punishable by seven years in prison and a fine of €150,000.

**Trafficking in human beings involving a minor can exist even if it is not committed in any of the circumstances listed in 1 to 4.**

Trafficking in human beings is punishable by ten years in prison and a fine of €1,500,000.

# Trafficking minors

## ACTION



## PURPOSE = EXPLOITATION




**Under international and European law, and French criminal law, trafficking minors can exist with no requirement to provide evidence of the methods used. These can be:**

7

## METHODS



**Trafficking does not have to involve crossing a national boundary. The same child can suffer different forms of trafficking in turn.**



# The impact of trafficking on children

## **The different kinds of trauma suffered by child victims of trafficking in human beings**

Child victims of trafficking in human beings, regardless of how they are exploited, will have to deal with the consequences at different levels throughout their lives. In practice, it will affect the child's physical, mental and emotional development, as well as limiting their career prospects once they reach adulthood, because of their lack of education.





## Impacts on physical development

**Daily living conditions are extremely difficult and can include any or all of the following problems:** malnutrition, insomnia, not having a rest day, working at night, physical, verbal and psychological violence, being kept in a confined space and not being able to get out, forced sexual acts, early pregnancy, a lack of health care, difficult work without protection resulting in injuries or burns, etc. Children can suffer nutritional deficiencies and the effects on their growth can be dramatic.

Abuse that goes untreated while they are being exploited can have disabling consequences during their adult lives. In addition, there are diseases, such as sexually transmitted infections, which can be fatal. The difficulty of the tasks they are given, along with harsh living and working conditions, also result in premature ageing, depression, drug dependency, and so on.



## Lack of schooling

**Children who suffer exploitation have no access to schooling while they are being exploited, and sometimes even before.**

Sometimes they do not even speak the language of the country where they are being exploited. Simply surviving day-to-day leaves little room for developing the skills adults need in their working life. It is not only a question of access to school and/or training, but also difficulties in forming relationships with adults, authority or work once they are free of the exploitative relationship and psychological control.



## Psychological impacts

**The psychological impact comes from denying the child as a human being.**

Exploitation in any form positions the child as an object or commodity, or simply treats them as disposable. For the exploiter, the only thing that counts is what they can get out of the child, regardless of the consequences. The child is sometimes caught in a double bind: they are abused by the same adult(s) who is (are) their only point of reference and who is (are) exploiting them. Very often, the child is dragged away from their familiar cultural environment. Abuse and humiliation mean the child feels constantly insecure. Their relationship of trust with adults is harmed. Children can suffer from sleeping and eating problems and phobias, start using substances or suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Depending on the kind of exploitation, some have found themselves facing the hostile world of life on the streets and have had to develop survival strategies characterised by aggression and a sense of insecurity. The child will not emerge unscathed from such extreme psychological conditions. They may suffer from a relationship with the world they see as threatening, and lack self-esteem or an ability to plan for the future.



# Indicators to identify possible victims of child trafficking

## Physical issues

- Inappropriate clothing for the season
- Destitution and signs of deficiency
- Lack of primary care
- Worrying state of physical and mental health
- Signs of excessive fatigue
- Signs of beating, injuries or self-harm
- Substance use
- Strategies for looking older
- Early sexual activity
- Sexually transmitted infections

## Attitudes and reactions

- Signs of insecurity
- Excessive responsibilities for their age
- Clearly younger than stated age
- Do not speak the country's language
- Silence and fear of answering
- Look lost and worried
- Isolation
- Evasive and mistrustful of any questions
- Impression that they feel they are being watched
- Stereotypical answers
- Highly dependent on a group of minors
- Repeated illegal conduct
- Frequent change of name
- Excessive work load

## Living environment

- No ID papers or suspicion of false ID papers
- "Working" hours unsuitable for a child
- Not enrolled in school or have dropped out
- Reference to debts
- Vague address
- Family and relationships unclear or disorganised
- Adults present controlling what they say
- Over-representation of girls
- Aimless wandering

# Preconceptions about child trafficking in France

## TRUE OR FALSE ?

- 1** A child is anyone under the age of 18, as indicated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 2** Cases of trafficking minors in France are extremely rare. It's a sad reality that affects other countries.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 3** Minors who are victims of trafficking often don't ask for support and protection. They often thwart any kind of protection.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 4** In case of doubt over the age of a young person and whether they are a minor, French law provides that they must always be treated as a minor and protected accordingly.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 5** Children who are forced by adults to steal or commit other crimes are victims. They must be protected and supported.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 6** An illegal migrant who has used one or more human smugglers must not be treated in the same way as a victim of trafficking in human beings.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 7** Protecting a child victim of trafficking simply involves arresting and convicting the adult or adults who are exploiting them.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 8** A child victim of trafficking must first report the people exploiting them if they want to get help.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 9** People who traffic human beings often force their victims – even minors – to repay high levels of debt (for travel, accommodation, etc.).  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*
- 10** In some communities, forcing children to beg, steal or work to benefit adults is part of their cultural tradition.  
 TRUE  FALSE  *Don't know*

**1 TRUE**

Article 1 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child states that “For the purposes of the present Convention, **a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years**, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.”

**2 FALSE**

In 2016, although we do not have any statistics to quantify child victims of trafficking, **we do know that France is particularly severely affected by the problem.** Child victims of trafficking are mainly exploited for the purposes of committing crimes (pickpocketing and burglary) and prostitution. The arrival of unaccompanied minors in the context of the current migration crisis risks aggravating the situation, insofar as their vulnerabilities make them potential victims.

**3 FALSE**

The people who exploit them clearly use strategies to pick up these young people – in particular, minors who are forced to commit crimes. They suffer pressure and severe threats of reprisals from the people exploiting them, against themselves or their family. This is why it is important for youth workers to be as fully aware as possible of the realities of these young people’s lives and understand control and dependency processes to respond to them and win their trust.

**Appropriate care needs teams who have been properly trained in dealing with minors, working closely with the various administrative authorities and associations.**

**4 TRUE**

**France has undertaken to grant a young person the benefits of being treated as a minor where there is any doubt over their age, pursuant to article 10 §4 of the Council of Europe Convention dated 16 May 2005.** Note, however, that the presumption of minority is not always guaranteed.

Moreover, although they may not have been identified as minors, neither are these young people considered adults and they are not entitled to any form of protection. They remain extremely vulnerable to trafficking.

**5 TRUE**

Minors who are forced to commit crimes **are very rarely treated from the point of view of victim protection** and too often as “delinquents”. They are caught in a double bind.

**6 TRUE**

Trafficking in human beings and illegal trafficking of migrants are two quite separate realities. **An illegal migrant cannot be treated in the same way as a victim of trafficking in human beings.**

But the extreme vulnerability of migrants – particularly if they are minors – and the ways they fall into debt to cover the cost of their journey – can result in trafficking being disguised as debt repayment or pseudo-protection.

**7 FALSE**

Prosecutions of the trafficking networks and those who exploit others must be linked to protection for victims. **Re-establishing these children’s fundamental rights** is the best way to thwart the criminal networks or malicious individuals who exploit them, by drying up the profits they generate from them. This also helps to reduce the vulnerability of young people faced with the risks of trafficking in human beings or re-victimisation. Finally, it helps them to rebuild their confidence and secure compensation for the serious harm they have suffered.

**8 FALSE**

A minor who is a victim or potential victim of trafficking must receive **unconditional protection in all cases.**

**9 TRUE**

This is one of the frequent forms of control exercised over victims of trafficking in human beings by those who exploit them. The practice of charging excessive interest rates sometimes makes repaying the debt almost impossible. **An entire family – children included – can therefore fall under the control of the people who exploit them.**

**10 FALSE**

**The situation of child victims of trafficking in human beings is not an issue specific to their countries of origin and the alleged exploitation is not a common form of education in these countries.**

This is a discriminatory view: trafficking minors is always the result of deviant, criminal practices by minority groups, regardless of where they come from.

# How to approach the young people affected.

## As a citizen...

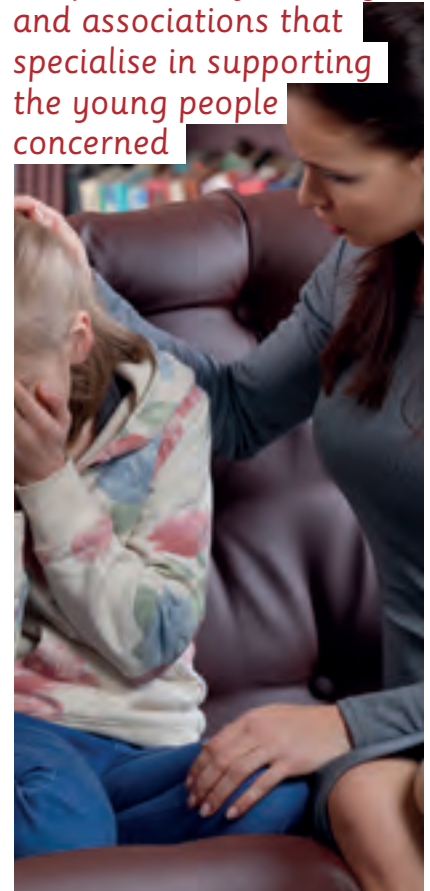
- **Take a benevolent approach to the young person concerned.**
- **Don't try to question them about the people in charge of them.**
- **Get in touch with specialist associations or organisations to support the young person;** support them through the process without putting them at risk (because they could suffer reprisals or be moved to another region or country).
- **File a report with the police.**

## As professionals working with children, in the justice sector, the police, health or social welfare...

**Professionals need to be trained to welcome the young people concerned in community-based facilities with an educational dimension.**

- **In order to improve protection for minors,** a placement and follow-up plan need to be prepared in advance, in a hostel, home or experienced host family; this would help to reduce the number of runaways and the risk of children falling back under the control of the people who exploit them.
- **It is important to go out and find these young people in the places** where they are known to work and take breaks, when they come out of police stations or when they are in custody.
- **It needs resources:** it is essential to have access to interpreters, for example, to talk to young people and support them.
- **The teams that support young people need to be trained and stable** to avoid problems and runaways.

Close coordination is needed between the administrative authorities, the police, the justice system and associations that specialise in supporting the young people concerned



A young boy with dark hair and eyes is looking through a metal grate. He is wearing a light-colored shirt. The image has a halftone or dot-matrix texture. A red graphic element is visible in the top left corner.

# A topical issue: trafficking and migration

Trafficking in human beings is a scourge that knows no boundaries of time or space. Its perpetrators understand how to take advantage of the fragilities associated with each country's economic, social, geopolitical or climatic context.

**Economic crises and conflicts have swelled the ranks of potential victims, including many children.** The people who exploit them have taken advantage of globalisation, characterised by voluntary or forced displacements of people.

**It is important not to confuse trafficking in human beings for the purpose of exploitation, with the trafficking of migrants** carried out by human smugglers and networks, which make money by moving migrants from one country to another. The latter pay the smugglers very large sums for dangerous and even fatal journeys.

**Those who do arrive safely, however, become easy prey for the exploiters and networks.**

They are particularly vulnerable and have an urgent need to work. Generally, they do not realise that, even though they have no papers, they still have rights. The fact that they have arrived illegally forces them to melt into an underground economy, which ranges from illegal working to forced labour for men, and sexual exploitation, forced marriage and domestic servitude for women and girls. According to the International Organisation for Migration, 10% of migrants arriving in Europe via the Mediterranean face this problem.

**The young person may also have been a victim of exploitation during their journey or in their country of origin.**

**Children face particular threats,** especially when they arrive in Europe alone. According to the European Union agency for police service cooperation and training (Europol) in February 2016, almost 10,000 unaccompanied migrant children had disappeared in Europe during the last 18 to 24 months. There is a high risk that a number of them have fallen into the hands of the trafficking networks.



TRAFFICKING MINORS

# Domestic servitude

16

Identifying child victims of trafficking for the purpose  
of domestic servitude

How can they be helped?







At Benoit's mother, Aminatou's house









## Farih's story

in the short film #INVISIBLES

Farih is 12 years old. She does the housework and looks after the children for a family in Paris, whose mother, like her, is from Africa. Farih is not in school and is not free to come and go. She sleeps in a cupboard, she is mistreated, and she is afraid. She knows no-one in France and she has to send money home to her family.

Farih is a victim of trafficking for domestic servitude.

In the film, the mother of the family exploiting Farih (her aunt) drinks and argues violently with her husband. The climate of violence is palpable. In reality, these tragedies also exist in apparently unproblematic homes. But child victims of trafficking for domestic servitude also suffer a significant level of psychological violence, severe isolation and discriminatory living conditions. They are deliberately not taught French, so that they are unable to express themselves and complain.

## Chantal's true story

**An orphan raised by her uncle in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Chantal goes to school and leads a normal life.**

At the age of 12, her life changes dramatically: a distant relative suggests to her uncle that Chantal should move to France to help in the home and get a better education. The uncle agrees. No need for a passport – she is simply added to the distant relative's passport as her own daughter. She finds herself in the Paris suburbs, looking after a family of five children including a baby, washing the laundry in cold water, cooking, cleaning and ironing. A social worker picks up her case when she is 13, when she is visiting a mother and child welfare centre with the baby, and demands that she should be in school. Because it is forced to, the family complies for a while, though she is still made to do chores morning and night; then the family moves, and she is again confined to the house.

When she is 18, the family decides it no longer wants her because she is "too big". An association takes charge of her thanks to the actions of a kind person who takes her there.

She is then recognised as a victim of trafficking for domestic servitude.



## *What is a victim of trafficking for domestic servitude?*

A domestic servant, in this sense, is generally a child or young women who has come to France because her future (exploitative) “bosses” have made false promises to her family: “she can go to school, she can help me and send money, etc.”

Once she arrives in France, she finds herself doing all the housework and looking after the children, without any rest or time off.

She is under the control of exploitative “bosses” who abuse her verbally and sometimes mistreat her physically. Isolated, and without her papers, which her “bosses” have confiscated, with no money and sometimes unable to speak French, she has no-one she can ask for help. Often, she is even too afraid to run away and becomes attached to the children she looks after.





## Who are the young people who are victims of domestic servitude?

- The vast majority of young people who are victims of domestic servitude in France come **from Africa and Asia**.
- They are **recruited from their families, in their home country**, by distant relatives or “friends” of the family living in France.
- These people make **false promises of schooling** for the children and say they will be well treated and even paid for the “help” they provide to the family that exploits them in France.



## Identifying children – girls and boys – in situations of domestic servitude

- Children in situations of domestic servitude **very rarely attend school**.
- In addition, they are often banned from contacting people outside, phoning their families or going out unaccompanied. They are hidden away inside apartments or houses, which makes identifying them very difficult.

**There are, however, a number of warning signs.**



## What are the warning signs?

- **Their apathy in relationships**  
They are overwhelmed, say nothing and seem to be afraid of answering. They seem fragile.
- **Their relationship with their “boss”**  
They are too afraid to look at them and answer in monosyllables. Their fear is perceptible.
- **Their clothing and general appearance**  
They may be poorly dressed or their clothes and shoes may be inadequate for the season. Their physical attitude: head down, vacant look, slow movements, jumping at the slightest noise, looking over their shoulder.





## Who can identify them?

- **Neighbours** when the children go down to take out the bins
- **Teachers** when the children go to school to take or collect the children they look after.
- **Passers-by** who come across them.
- **Doctors and nurses**, when the child accompanies a consultation or emergency visit.
- **Welfare assistants** monitoring the family that is exploiting them.



## Who exploits them? Who benefits?

- **These are unscrupulous individuals**, from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. Most often it is a couple with children, who want the benefit of free domestic service, which is prohibited in France, where child labour is also banned.
- **They may come from the same background as the victim or belong to the same family.** They therefore entice children or young women to come, by offering them the prospect of a better life and the chance to go to school.
- **These people take advantage of the children's vulnerability and isolation, and threaten to imprison them if they complain.**
- **The most violent ones beat them**, make them sleep on the floor and do not give them enough to eat, which will have severe consequences on their health, since the children are at a point when they should be growing. They do not really view them as human beings, but as "things" over which they have absolute rights.

## What not to do

**Do not address the person exploiting them directly,**  
or they may turn on the victim.



## What can you do?

**Try to speak to the child discreetly,** when the person exploiting them is not present.  
Ask them their name and address. Offer to help.

**Notify a specialist association\*.**

**File a report with the police.**

**Call 119**

National help line for children in danger.

Domestic servitude is one of the various forms of trafficking minors for the purpose of exploitation through labour. Other forms exist, for example when the young person is forced to work long hours in an unhealthy and harmful environment, using dangerous tools and equipment, or having to carry loads that are too heavy for them. This occurs in conditions that restrict their freedom of movement and include confiscation of their identity papers, physical violence, threats or intimidation, or fraudulently imposing debts.

\*see page 67 to 69 for the list of associations in the "Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings" Collective, which can answer questions or offer guidance.



TRAFFICKING MINORS

# Sexual exploitation

Identifying child victims of trafficking for the purpose  
of sexual exploitation

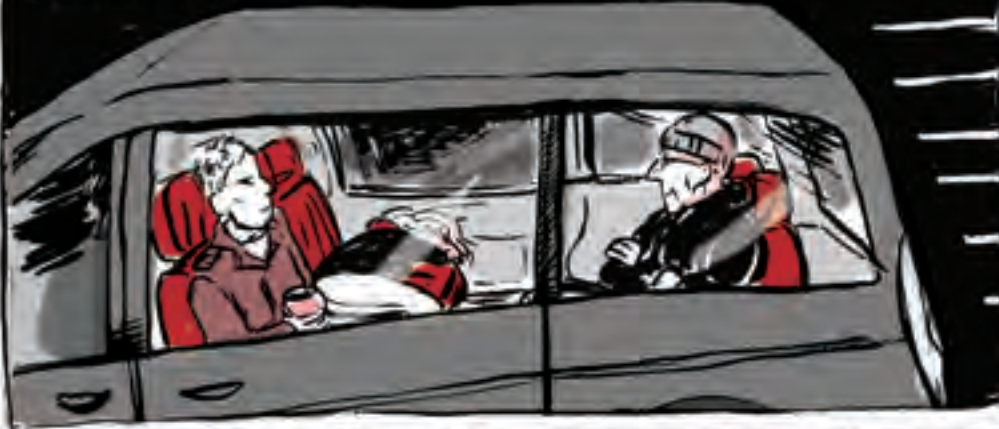
How can they be helped?







A bit later...



300? You must be joking! She's a virgin: she's worth at least 1,000!



Just take it and leave!

That's plenty!



BASTARD!









## Anne's story

in the short film #INVISIBLES

Anne is a 14-year-old schoolgirl, who is in love with Alex, an apparently attentive young man. Anne's family background is not ideal, which is undoubtedly one of the reasons she has blind faith in her boyfriend. In fact, he is a middleman for a network of people involved in trafficking for sexual exploitation. He will take advantage of Anne's vulnerability to hand her over to a trafficker named Ben, in return for a few hundred euros. Ben will drug her and pass her on to a client. Although she is released a few hours later, Anne will remain under the network's control, particularly because she has been filmed, which is a way of exerting pressure over her.

## Line's true story

**Line is French.** Following the serious domestic violence perpetrated against her mother by her father, Line is placed in a home at the age of four. She will remain there for eight years. When she is 12, she is returned to her mother but starts running away. When she is 15, her mother takes her abroad without warning, to hand her over to her grandmother. There Line is subjected to severe physical violence and psychological abuse and falls into the hands of a network of traffickers, who bring her back to France and force her to work as a prostitute in Paris, keeping her confined in an apartment. Finally, after six months, Line manages to escape and make contact with an association working to combat trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This young woman, a minor and a victim of trafficking, was recruited, lodged and moved by a network for sexual exploitation.

35

## Nadia's true story

**Nadia is 14 years old.** Her family has split up, so she lives in a home. She and some other girls in the home, who are aged between 14 and 17, are approached by some young men. Among them are some high-level athletes, including one French champion and vice-champion in combat sports, who force these vulnerable teenagers to work as prostitutes in hotels in the south-west of the country, via advertisements posted on the internet. The case was brought to trial in 2015, for aggravated procuring, and the leader of the group was sentenced to seven years in prison. For the associations, it is a question of trafficking in human beings insofar as there is recruitment and an offence of procuring committed against a minor.



## Naima's true story

**Naima's true story:** "When I arrived in France, I was just under 14 years old but my papers showed that I was 22. I wasn't a prostitute at first; I was forced to work as a look-out in the car park, where I noted down the number plates of the cars the girls got into. They made me to do that to keep an eye on the prostitutes. I didn't speak French. One day, one of the girls told me to get into a car with a man. I didn't know what to do and I said I was too young, that my job was just to take down the number plates. I got in the car... The man gave me money. I still remember it; I was 15 years old. When I went back to the car park and took the money out, the eldest of the people who had taken me there beat me. After that, the procuring began. I couldn't get away from it. I didn't have any papers, and I didn't speak the language..."

Naima was taken to France and used by a network involved in trafficking for sexual exploitation.

## Kessy's true story

**Kessy, aged 13, tells her story:** "I was living in Africa with my uncle. He sent me to France with a woman. He told me I could study there, work and have a good life; I came to Paris with this woman and lived with her. No-one had told me I would have to work as a prostitute: it was very difficult. I didn't want to, but it was the crash. The woman showed me where to stand on the pavement. And she used to call my phone all the time so I would give her money. She used to shout. I didn't know what else to do. The other women showed me what to do, though I didn't want to. It's important everyone understands that I didn't know, that I didn't have a choice. At first, I stood my ground, I told her it was impossible. I called my uncle to tell him, but he said, yes, my girl, that's how it is, you have to repay your debt." Kessy, a victim of trafficking, was transferred from Africa to France and given accommodation so that she could be sexually exploited.

## What is a child victim of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation?

Trafficking minors for the purpose of sexual exploitation implies recruiting, moving, lodging or receiving someone under the age of 18 to make them work as a prostitute or to derive financial profit by producing pornographic material or through digital networks (cyberpornography). For minors, unlike adults, it is not necessary for the recruitment to have involved violence or deception for the courts to recognise that it involves trafficking in human beings. The child becomes a sexual object, which can be bought, sold, hired, exchanged for money, goods (such as smartphones and clothes) or compensation in kind (such as meals, accommodation or drugs) to the benefit of one or more third parties. This tends to be described in terms of other associated offences (such as procuring) rather than trafficking in human beings. The associations are pushing for proper recognition of the offence, so that the young victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation can be protected appropriately.



## Who are the child victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation?

Today, in France, child victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation **are mainly foreign minors** (with, for example, a significant increase in young people from Nigeria and China on the streets of Paris).

However, we should not dismiss **the cases of “internal” trafficking of young French people, particularly via internet-based networks.**

**Whether they are French or foreign, young victims of trafficking are often children with specific vulnerabilities:**

- **Dysfunctional family backgrounds** (violence, alcohol, family breakdown and serious parental failings) or early sexual trauma (such as sexual abuse, incest and early sexual activity).
- **Situations of extreme economic vulnerability** also exposing isolated minors to this form of exploitation.
- **A socially discriminating context for young women** (sexism and sexist violence, girls “sacrificed” for their families, etc.)
- **Homophobia.**

**All are victims of serious assaults and suffer physical and psychological consequences.**



## Identifying child victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation

They are not easy to detect or even identify as “children”.

- **In practice, the young people concerned are often in groups that also include adults. They may also be kept in confinement.**
- In the case of street prostitution, **their real age is often disguised** (using make-up, clothing and jewellery) to make them look older, and by producing false adult identity papers.
- **Physical and behavioural indicators** can, however, arouse suspicion.



## What are the warning signs?

- **A sudden taste for easy money, and expensive brand-name clothes and other items.** But in many cases, the trafficker takes all the money the child earns from prostitution.
- **Unexplained changes** in their timetable.
- Consumption of **alcohol, cannabis and other drugs or medicines.**
- Signs of **impulsiveness, aggression, anxiety**, or using their body as a challenge (e.g. through self-harm or scarification).
- **Intellectual inhibition** and a lack of interest in school.
- **Isolation and suicidal tendencies.**
- **Undermining of physical health** (such as sexually transmitted infections, AIDS and early pregnancy).
- **Signs of physical violence** perpetrated by traffickers against children, such as beating, injuries and acts of torture.



## Who can identify them?

- In the first place, if there are any, **relatives, family and friends.**
- **Teachers, school leaders and educational advisers.**
- **Doctors and nurses**, when the child is accompanying someone or attending a consultation.
- **Social services.**
- **Specialist associations**, in particular those that visit the places frequented by prostitutes.
- **The police**, particularly departments that specialise in protecting minors or combating procuring.



## Who exploits them?

### Who benefits?

- **Traffickers in France** identify young people in vulnerable situations. They establish control, maintaining their victims in an exploitative situation that is highly lucrative for the traffickers. The internet can also be as a recruitment “tool” for “escorts” and “sugar babies”, both terms which tend to conceal the fact that this is sexual exploitation of minors.
- **Criminal networks** have international ramifications.
- Victims can be moved from Europe or elsewhere and exploited from one European country to another.
- **“Clients” or “buyers”** of sexual acts with minors or child pornography are also considered responsible for exploitative situations under French law.

**The Act of 13 April 2016 art 225-12-1 states:** “Three years’ imprisonment and a fine of 45,000 can be imposed for soliciting, accepting or obtaining, in exchange for compensation or a promise of compensation, the provision of a benefit in kind or the promise of such a benefit, relations of a sexual nature by anyone who participates in prostitution, including on an occasional basis, where the person concerned is a minor or has a particular vulnerability.” Purchasing images of child pornography online is punishable by two years’ imprisonment and a fine of 30,000 (French Criminal Code, article 227-23).

**The 2002 Act on parental authority**, “article 13: “Prostitution involving minors is prohibited throughout the Republic of France. Any minor who is involved in prostitution, even occasionally, is deemed to be in danger and falls under the protection of the children’s judge in respect of child protection procedures.”

## What not to do

### Try to act alone

(particularly by carrying out your own investigation).

**Get into a direct confrontation with the child or other people involved.**



## What can you do?

### If there are relatives

Try to re-establish a dialogue with the minor to get them to talk about their problems in a non-judgmental environment. Help the young person to express what they have experienced. Very stringent laws exist: referring to them and describing what has happened as prohibited is very important to indicate to the child that they are neither responsible nor guilty.

### In school

Set up a meeting with the key people involved in the child's education and if there are clear concerns, have the head teacher call in the child's parents or guardian.

### Call 119

National help line for children in danger.

### Contact a specialist association\*

Any adult who sees a minor who is obviously in a situation of prostitution **must notify the public authorities\*\*** or file a report with the CRIP (Cellule de Recueil des Informations Préoccupantes) or directly with the public prosecutor's office if the child is clearly in danger.

\*see pages 67, 68, 69

\*\*see page 65

TRAFFICKING MINORS

# Forced begging

40

Identifying child victims of trafficking for the purpose  
of forced begging

How can they be helped?















## Gabi's story

in the short film #INVISIBLES

Gabi, aged eight, has spent her day begging in the street. In spite of everything, she hasn't earned enough to give Sarah, aged 20, the sum she had set her as a target. Sarah is annoyed that she hasn't got the money and forces Gabi to stay in the street begging. Sarah's justification is that Gabi's family owes her money and needs to repay it.

A young apprentice baker, Kalo, appears on the scene. He decides to take Gabi under his wing and calls a friend, who is a member of an association that works to combat trafficking in human beings, to get the child some protection.

Forcing minors to beg is a form of trafficking in human beings.

## Dario's true story

Dario is Bulgarian and nine years old. He is the eldest of four siblings. His parents can no longer feed their family, so they agree to join some fellow Bulgarians in France. They are promised a house, work and schooling for the children.

The family sells everything they own to pay for the journey. It keeps just two accordions belonging to Dario and his father, who are both musicians.

Once they arrive in France, they are taken to a shanty town close to a motorway. Other families from various backgrounds live there too, in appalling conditions, with limited access to water, no waste collection, makeshift housing, etc.

Dario and his family live in a shack with a sheet metal roof, and keep warm using the cooker.

Although he looks for work, the father is unable to find a job. The family has to pay "rent" to the "head" of the shanty town. A man proposes they go out begging and give him part of the money; otherwise they will be thrown out of the shanty town. At first, Dario's father refuses to involve his family in begging, but the "head" orders men to beat him. So the family goes out begging on the streets of the city to get enough money to pay for their housing.

They hardly have enough left to pay for food.

The "head" of the shanty town demands more money from them, again threatening them with expulsion.

Knowing that Dario and his father play the accordion, he forces them to play on the street and in the metro.

(continued on next page...)

### Dario's true story (continued)

The children are tired of wandering every day. Dario, who used to enjoy playing the accordion, is exhausted: he has to stand for hours, playing tunes that please the passers-by. Social workers are aware of the family and have offered the father the chance for the children to go to school, particularly Dario, who could join a specialist music class.

At the same time, the police, alerted by the fact that there are children involved, step in and question the children. Dario's father is accused of exploiting them. He is imprisoned, and there are discussions about foster care for the children.

During conversations with his lawyer and thanks to the social workers involved, it becomes clear that the parents were forced to send the children out to beg. They are therefore released. The people exploiting them in the shanty town are questioned and other families who have suffered the same fate are identified and guided to the authorities, to get access to housing and schooling for the children.

The real perpetrators of trafficking in human beings are convicted.

Dario is a child victim of trafficking for the purpose of forced begging.

48

### *What is a victim of child trafficking for the purpose of forced begging?*

These are children who are forced to beg on behalf of a third party. Generally, they make no money from it themselves. They are monitored by the adults who exploit them and obliged to produce the sum set by the person in charge or a middleman. If they do not achieve their target, they can be victims of psychological and/or physical violence.





## Who are child victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced begging?

Currently, the children forced to beg are often children from Eastern Europe, generally living in shanty towns. But we are also seeing an increase in minors coming from North Africa and other continents.

- **The whole family can also be forced to beg**, to pay off a debt (e.g. for repaying the cost of their journey to France, the right to remain on a piece of land, or buying a caravan). They then have to hand over the money they have collected to someone else. Clearing camps and repeated expulsions with no other housing options increase the precariousness of these families' situations and the risk of trafficking.
- **Parents can also be sent back to their home country. The children are then left in France alone.** They can fall under the control of a family or network, which exploits them by forcing them to beg.
- **Disabled children** can also be exploited in the context of forced begging.

People living in shanty towns need to be supported for as long as necessary so that they can access basic rights (health care, schooling, housing, etc.) and decent living conditions (water, waste removal and safety). The mediation work carried out by the associations with municipal authorities, public and medical/social services is essential. The aim is to avoid groups who are vulnerable to the risk of trafficking being dispersed and becoming even more isolated.



## Identifying minors who are forced to beg

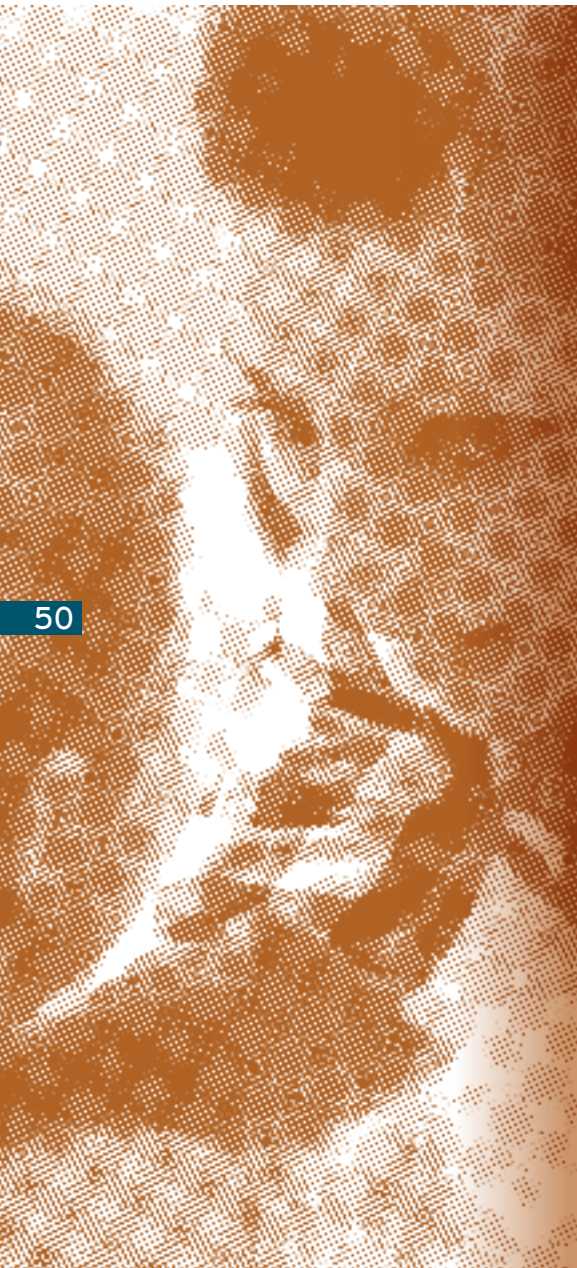
**This requires a careful and sophisticated assessment of the situation: it is not easy to identify when someone is being forced to beg, as in most cases, begging is primarily a means of survival.**

The role of the relevant authorities is therefore to assess the situation carefully, in order to avoid young children being taken from their mother inappropriately and placed in foster care. Similarly, if children are on the street or forced to live on their wits, it does not necessarily mean their parents are mistreating them; they may be waiting to be assessed by the relevant authorities; they may also simply be children who are below the age when they have to be in school or waiting to be allocated a school place, or children facing significant administrative hurdles. It is obviously important for social workers to be involved with these children so that they can access basic services.



## What are the warning signs of forced begging?

- **Monitoring** by older children or adults.
- **Children who are wary**, because they know they are being watched.
- **Signs of physical violence.**
- **Threats being made.**



## Who can identify child victims of forced begging?

- **Social workers and specialist youth workers.**
- **Child protection and child social services.**

It is important to realise **that under French law, begging is not considered a crime** (excluding a number of prefectural orders). Conversely, forcing someone to beg and the presence of children begging, either with adults or not, is condemned. The relevant authorities should be alerted if children are involved, so that an assessment can be carried out and social workers brought in to work with the children and possibly their families.



## Who exploits children who are forced to beg?

### Who benefits?

- **Families** who can exert pressure on their own members to beg (careful! A family can itself be ordered to beg by others).
- **Unscrupulous individuals committing criminal acts** who live abroad on the proceeds of trafficking, thanks to a network of middlemen responsible for organising and collecting their “revenues”.

The adults who exploit children use ‘strategies’ that often discourage attempts to implement the monitoring and protection to which they are entitled. This is why it is important to run specific training for social workers, the police and the justice sector on this type of trafficking and trafficking for the purpose of incitement to commit crimes (see next section).

## What not to do

### **Do not intervene directly.**

Children can become victims of reprisals or be moved.

## What can you do?

**Establish a relationship of trust with the child to overcome their fears and help them to accept protection.**

**Notify the child protection authorities.**

**Support the work done by associations and the social services with the children concerned.**

**Call 119**

National help line for children in danger.



TRAFFICKING MINORS

# Incitement to commit crimes

52

Identifying child victims of trafficking  
for the purpose of incitement to commit crimes

How can they be helped?

## Kalo's story

Suspected of trying to commit a crime, but actually a victim of racist prejudice in the short film #INVISIBLES

Kalo is a young Romanian, aged 16. As an apprentice baker, he is well integrated into society and appreciated by his boss, whom he trusts. As he leaves work with the takings from the bakery, he comes across a little girl called Gabi, who is begging and being severely told off for not having made enough money.

He comes to her rescue. At the same time, he has to deposit the bakery takings at the bank. A woman at the cash machine is frightened by his being there. She thinks he wants to steal her money. A group of young people at the scene take Kalo aside, beat him and steal the money he had in his pocket. In the film, Kalo is not a thief. He is a victim of people's view of Romanians and their prejudice, suspected of trying to commit a crime in public and severely beaten up. Children under the control of unscrupulous adults are forced to steal in tourist areas, public transport and stations, and at cash machines.

It is a little-known reality.

These boys and girls, often viewed as criminals, are also #INVISIBLE victims of trafficking and must be recognised as such and protected.

## Carla's true story

Carla is a 16-year-old young woman. She was sent to France with the family of the husband chosen for her. Her baby stayed in another country with her mother-in-law. In France, Carla and other young people are forced to steal smartphones for adults, including one of her brothers-in-law. In the end, the people exploiting her are questioned by the police. But nothing is done to protect Carla or other young people who are being exploited in the same way. The young girl is quickly recruited by other people who exploit her and again force her to beg. She is then regularly arrested and sometimes imprisoned with adults. She appears before the court for repeated theft of mobile phones, alongside the people who exploited her. She is summoned to a hearing before the youth court and taken there by public transport, with no protection from the people who force her to steal. Youth workers from a specialist association manage to form a relationship with Carla.

Over the course of their meetings, the young woman manages to fill in a housing application. It takes a long time – punctuated by crises and running away because of lack of coordination between services, on the one hand, and the control and strategies used by the people exploiting her, on the other – for Carla to get support and protection. Carla is a victim of trafficking in human beings but was initially viewed as a “criminal”, which meant she was denied access to basic services. It was not until an association got involved that her situation as a victim was recognised and she was able to access appropriate protection.

## *What is a child victim of trafficking for the purpose of incitement to commit crimes?*

They are minors forced by adults to commit offences for the benefit of the adults who exploit them. The fact that children are minors is an advantage for the adults concerned, because they risk less in terms of criminal sanctions. As a result, the adults who exploit them have no hesitation in “recruiting” and “training” younger and younger children.

Once they are too well-known to the police, they move them from one country to another. The offences committed take different forms:

- **Pickpocketing** (jewellery, wallets or mobile phones in tourist areas or public transport).
- **Theft from vehicles** (vehicles stopped at a red light or parked).
- **Theft at cash machines.**
- **Theft from suitcases at airports.**
- **Charity fraud** (false claims, pretending to be disabled, etc.)
- **Burglary.**



## Who are the child victims of trafficking for the purpose of incitement to commit crimes?

**The phenomenon mainly used to affect minors from Eastern Europe but it is currently expanding to other communities and countries.**

There is one specific feature to note: although most petty crime among minors is carried out by boys, a significant number of girls are involved and commit repeated offences, which is a sign they are being subjected to incitement to commit crimes.



## Identifying child victims of trafficking for the purpose of incitement to commit crimes

The nature of the crimes these children are incited to commit makes them **particularly visible in the public arena** (apart from those forced to commit burglary). This overexposure means that they are initially viewed by the general public as “criminals”. They therefore either get very little attention or are treated inappropriately and do not get the protection to which victims of trafficking are entitled.

**The main difficulty is, in fact, identifying them as children in danger and victims of trafficking in human beings, who are in need of protection.**



## What are the warning signs of incitement to commit crimes?

Often these children show no signs of having any money; on the contrary, they are extremely poor. Others, however, dress in the same way as other children of their age so as not to attract attention.

- **They may bear the traces of the violence they have suffered.**
- **They work in groups**, and are highly dependent on each other.
- **They are evasive/mistrustful** when people speak to them, and act as if they are being watched.
- **Girls are over-represented** in these groups, although they are in the minority in “traditional” petty crime.



56



### Who can identify child victims of trafficking for the purpose of incitement to commit crimes?

- **anyone who is aware and informed about the reality of their situation.**
- **the associations**, particularly those with a presence on the streets, outside police stations.
- **social workers.**
- **the police**, who regularly question young repeat offenders in the act of committing a crime or following a complaint from a victim of theft.
- **youth workers** employed by the Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse (PJJ – young offenders service).
- **the judicial institutions** that have to analyse the facts and find the “real” perpetrators of these crimes, by tracking them back to the people who pull the strings.



### Who are the people who exploit minors who are forced to commit crimes?

#### Who benefits?

**Sometimes, unscrupulous adults committing criminal acts** for their own family, or in the case of young women, for their in-laws. Exploitative families of this kind are very much a minority in their community.

**More organised and structured networks**, which move children from one city or country to another.



## What not to do

**It is important not to assume that these are behaviours common to an entire community** and minimise the reality these children are living on the pretext that it is a cultural “practice” (which is based on prejudice).

**It is also important to be clear about the real perpetrators of the crime, who are adults who hide behind the children concerned.**

## What can you do?

**Establish a relationship of trust with the child to understand the reality experienced by children who are forced to commit crimes.**

**Contact the associations and professionals who are trained to act and protect children who are victims of trafficking.**

**Support the work of the associations and medical/social care facilities that help people living in shanty towns or on the streets to access basic services.**

**Find out about the reality of their lives to tackle prejudices.**

**Adopt a multidisciplinary approach in order to identify minors who are forced to commit crimes as victims rather than “criminals”.**





# Exploitation in sport through deception

58

Identifying young athletes who are victims of trafficking in sport through deception

How can they be helped?

## A situation suggested in the short film #INVISIBLES

A group of young people sitting on a bench in the street are following a football match on a smartphone. One young man, Moussa, is sorry he is not on the pitch. This young man was the victim of a fraudulent sports agent and recruiter, who brought him to France to join a football club. But the promise was a lie and the young man found himself on the street, with no contact with relatives, no papers, no money and no family.

Young people like Moussa, who are promised a career in sport, are actually victims of trafficking. They are often abandoned and the fact that they find themselves on the street makes them vulnerable to trafficking. Within the context of professional sport, there are therefore both minors at risk of trafficking and some who are clearly actual victims of trafficking because the recruiters knew they could make them work without pay.

## Ibrahima's true story

Ibrahima grew up in West Africa. Like other boys in his village, he likes playing football. Ibrahima is 15 years old; he plays extremely well. One day, a man approaches his family and offers to become Ibrahima's agent, saying that he has a great chance of being selected for a European club. Ibrahima is very excited and his family supports him. The agent asks for a significant sum of money to cover the journey and his fees; he also asks for the agent's fees in Europe in advance, as he will not be authorised to continue as Ibrahima's agent once he is there. All these expenses, he promises, will be reimbursed as soon as Ibrahima has earned his first salary as a high-level athlete.

Ibrahima is almost 16 years old when he leaves his family to come to France with the man who describes himself as his agent. The latter organised the trip and has Ibrahima's passport, since the young man trusts him completely. When he arrives, he goes straight to a selection process with his agent. The agent drops him off at a hotel and says he will be back at the end of the day to tell him whether he has been selected.

When he returns, the man tells him that no decision has been made and that Ibrahima will have to work in the Paris markets to wait for another selection process and pay for the hotel. The child is therefore forced to work in inhuman conditions for several months\*. When he is 17, he is picked up by social workers and guided towards child welfare services. He will not tell his story until several years later, to a specialist association. He wants to have a voice, as a way of acknowledging his suffering.

Ibrahima is undoubtedly a victim of trafficking in human beings since he was recruited (action) to be placed in inhuman working conditions (providing services in exchange for compensation that clearly bears no relation to the significance of the work carried out).

\*This is a form of exploitation covered by article 225-4-1 of the French Criminal Code, which sanctions trafficking in human beings.

## Violette's true story

Violette is a young girl from sub-Saharan Africa who asked for help from one of the Collective's member associations. Although she was a minor, she had false identity papers as an adult; she had been brought to France along with a high-level sports team. Allegedly a member of the team, she was actually under the control of one of the directors, who had led her to believe they would be married but actually made her work as a prostitute in France. This young woman had the courage to escape but, because she had adult identity papers, she was placed in a holding centre. Thanks to help from the associations present at the centre, she was able to get out. The fact of not being recognised as a victim and the difficulty of proving that she was a minor made her mistrustful of the authorities, which made things difficult for her.

In this case, professional sport was used to move a young person for the purpose of sexual exploitation: she was a victim of trafficking.

60

## *What is a child victim of trafficking in sport through deception?*

**It is a child or young person who has been identified in their own country by a real or alleged sports agent for their athletic abilities.**

The agent suggests to the family that they pay him or her to take the child to Europe. Once there, they will have access to training facilities or clubs. The alleged agent may make the same proposal to several talented young athletes. The families agree to pay significant sums of money (allegedly for board and lodging, a residency permit, insurance, lessons, etc.) and buy a plane ticket so that their child can join a training facility in Europe, North Africa or on another continent. They may get into debt as a result. But the promises are empty. The young person is abandoned and becomes a potential victim of other forms of trafficking.



## Who are the child victims of trafficking in sport through deception?

**In France, they are mainly children and young people from Africa, who have dreamed of a sporting career in football, volleyball, basketball or athletics.**

Once they arrive, they are particularly isolated, because they have come from abroad through an intermediary, and know no-one in the country. Sometimes the young person does not know the language, which city or even which country they are in. After a lightning trip to an alleged training facility or a quick trial in a club or even several clubs, they find themselves alone, on the street, with no papers, no work permit and no other resources. As well as the distress, they face the shame of broken dreams and failure. They are highly vulnerable and may be victims of other forms of exploitation in the building sector, domestic service or illegal activities. Some of them look quite athletic, which casts doubt over whether they are minors. As a result, they are not looked after by the relevant authorities.



## Identifying young athletes who are exploited through deception

By their **high level of vulnerability.**

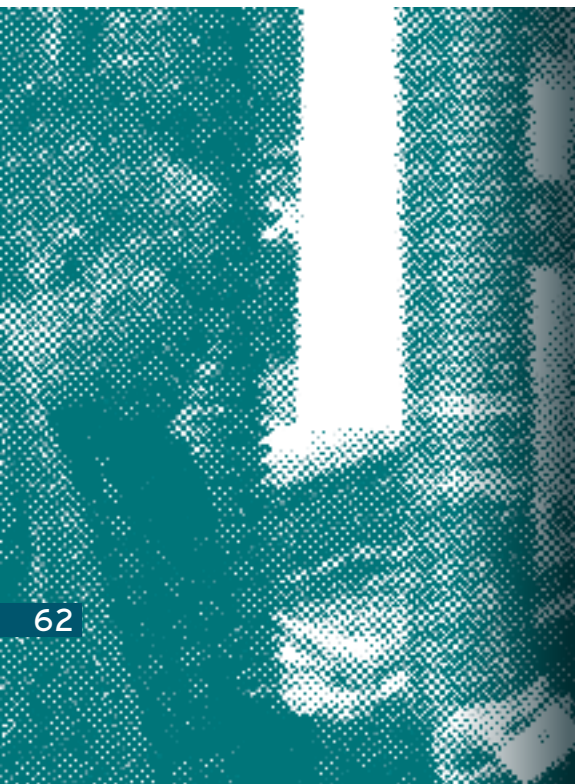
- **The isolation of these young people on the streets.**
- **The vulnerability** of the situation they are in.
- **Their poor state of physical and/or mental health.**



## What are the warning signs of exploitation?

- **Their young age**, which is not always easy to identify.
- **Signs of physical deficiencies and destitution.**





## Who can identify young people who are exploited through professional sport?

- **Anyone who meets them in the street.**
- **Associations** that provide meals and basic necessities.
- **Care facilities**, because their living conditions have an impact on their physical and mental health.
- **The family back home** can also approach the authorities to report that they have not heard from the young person.



## Who are the people who exploit minors in the context of professional sport?

### Who benefits?

**An intermediary entices young people and their family with empty promises of training or a contract with a club.**

Perhaps they hope that one or two young people will actually get a contract with a club and that they will be paid a commission. They have no interest in the others, whom they will abandon. These alleged transfers to Europe can also provide an opportunity for money-laundering, disguised as sports recruitment.

## What not to do

**Ignore these neglected young people or pretend not to have noticed them.**

**Make them feel guilty for their disappointed hopes and ambition.**

## What can you do?

**Get informed** to gain a better understanding of the spiral these young people are trapped in.

**Guide them to appropriate facilities** by making contact with social services and associations\*.

## Ana and Marius' true story

**Ana, aged 13 and Marius, aged 10 have been in France with their parents for three months. In order to get to France, they took out a loan with a moneylender, with rapidly increasing interest rates.**

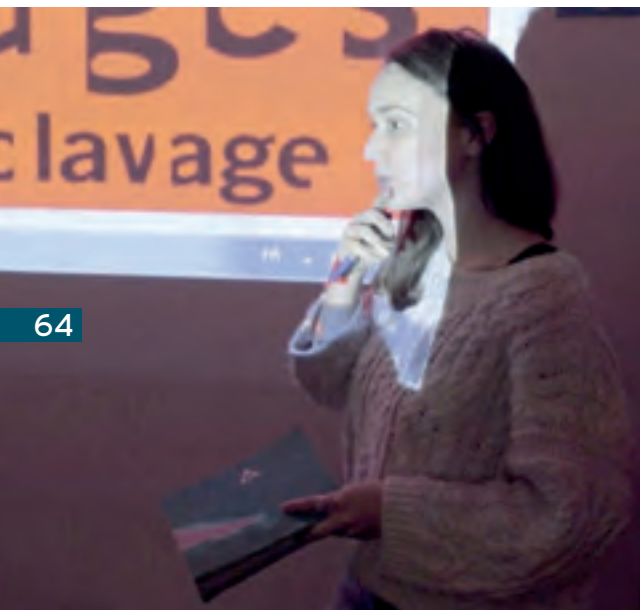
They are living in a shanty town with several other families from different regions. The parents are looking for work, but they do not speak French and have no qualifications. In Romania, they worked illegally doing low-skilled jobs. Ana and Marius' parents go out begging every day, leaving their children in the shanty town, so that the family survives until they can find a job. The children are not in school: the parents would like them to be educated, but they have no idea what they have to do and are very caught up in their day-to-day concerns.

Ana and Marius have not been picked up by social workers. As a result of a police check, Ana and Marius' parents are told they have to leave France on the grounds that they represent "an unreasonable cost to the state", which can be used as a reason to repatriate them once they have been on French territory for over three months. They decide to return to Romania and return once they have again raised the money they need. Ana and Marius find themselves with no parents, in a highly vulnerable situation, and in a city they hardly know. They are in a position of extreme vulnerability and run the risk of becoming victims of trafficking.



# How to combat trafficking effectively

## Who can do what?



### Possible courses of action

- **Raise public awareness**
- **Warn at-risk groups**
- **Support victims**
- **Take legal action**
- **Work in networks**
- **Engage in advocacy with institutions** by reminding them of the legal obligations France entered into following its ratification of the United Nations protocol on human trafficking (2000) and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings of 16 May 2005, and following its transposition of the European Directive 2011/36/EU. de la directive 2011/36/UE de l'Union européenne.



### What individuals can do

- **Act as a citizen**
- **Support or get involved with the associations**
- **Take action with institutions**



# Useful contacts

**[www.contrelatraite.org](http://www.contrelatraite.org)**

*Failing to help a child victim is viewed as failing to assist a person in danger and is against the law.*

**The toll-free number 119 for children in danger** takes calls about children in danger and forwards concerns to the relevant authorities.

## **Cellules de Recueil des Informations Préoccupantes (CRIP)**

Each department has its own CRIP unit to gather, process and evaluate worrying information about children in danger, to make it easier to identify those in danger or at risk of danger and drive a more proactive response to ensuring they are protected. Depending on the department, it is not always the same body within the council.

Any individual or professional can forward a concern to the CRIP to alert the chair of the council about a danger or risk of danger to an accompanied or unaccompanied minor.

The CRIP forwards concerns to the minors' section of the relevant public prosecutor's officer where swift action is required. The CRIP can also advise professionals or individuals over the phone.

**The Brigades de Protection des Mineurs or Brigades des Mineurs** child protection teams investigate offences whose victims are children, with the aim of punishing the perpetrators and protecting child victims. They can be approached in emergency situations and when there is no possibility of action by other child protection actors, particularly at night.

## **Minors' Section, Public Prosecutor's Office (Tribunal de Grande Instance):**

in emergency situations, i.e. situations of serious and current mistreatment concerning physical, psychological or sexual violence requiring immediate protection for the minor. In this situation the report can be sent directly by fax, with a copy to the CRIP. It is also possible to call the on-call team at the public prosecutor's office dealing with minors.

## **Independent territorial units (BTA) or joint units (COB) of the French national gendarmerie.**

**The medical sector** is a reliable source of information and support (through general practitioners, child psychiatrists, school nurses and family planning).

## **Associations working locally with minors or victims of trafficking in human beings**

(see the presentation of associations in the Collective on pages 67, 68 and 69).

# The “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective

66

**The “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective is a group of 25 associations working to combat trafficking in human beings in all its forms: sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, incitement to steal, exploiting begging, organ trafficking, forced marriage, etc. It works to:**

- improve prevention among at-risk populations.
- develop and support local initiatives in France and different countries to support victims (psychological, legal, social and medical support, etc.).
- raise public awareness.
- support a network of local actors to develop information sharing and interaction.
- engage in advocacy with institutional stakeholders at the national, European and global level.

# CONTRE LA TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS



**AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN  
HUMAN BEINGS**

## Member associations

**in red:** associations working with minors who contributed to writing this leaflet

### Action Catholique des Femmes

The members of Action Catholique des Femmes focus on all issues that affect the place and dignity of women in society and the Church.

[www.actioncatholiquedesfemmes.org](http://www.actioncatholiquedesfemmes.org)  
[national@actioncatholiquedesfemmes.org](mailto:national@actioncatholiquedesfemmes.org)

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### AFJ

Professionals working with the AFJ home are involved in identifying and providing shelter and multidisciplinary support for women who have been victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

[www.foyer-afj.fr](http://www.foyer-afj.fr)  
[afj.servicesocial@gmail.com](mailto:afj.servicesocial@gmail.com)

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### Agir contre la prostitution des enfants

Since 1986, Agir contre la prostitution des enfants (ACPE) has been working to combat child prostitution and all forms of sexual exploitation (internet abuse, child pornography and paedophilia) by carrying out public awareness-raising initiatives, working in schools and taking action in the civil courts.

[www.acpe-asso.org](http://www.acpe-asso.org)  
[acpe.asso@gmail.com](mailto:acpe.asso@gmail.com)

### Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme

Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme's mission is to protect victims of trafficking and defend their rights.

[www.aedh.org](http://www.aedh.org)  
[agir-ensemble@aedh.org](mailto:agir-ensemble@aedh.org)

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### Amicale du Nid

The association – which has eight locations and 200 employees – works with victims of prostitution and trafficking on the ground (5,000 people a year) and helps 4,300 people (particularly women and children) to integrate into society.

[www.amicaledunid.org](http://www.amicaledunid.org)  
[contact@adn-asso.org](mailto:contact@adn-asso.org)

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### Armée du Salut (Salvation Army)

The Salvation Army works to combat trafficking in human beings and opposes any form of commercialisation, exploitation and attacks on the dignity of human beings in general and women in particular. This includes prostitution, pornography and sexual tourism.

[www.armedusalut.fr](http://www.armedusalut.fr)

### Association pour la Réadaptation Sociale

The Association pour la Réadaptation Sociale welcomes minors and young adults experiencing family and social breakdown, in particular, victims of trafficking, and supports them in developing and implementing their life plans.

[www.ars13.org](http://www.ars13.org)  
[ars.association@arsdirection.fr](mailto:ars.association@arsdirection.fr)

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### Aux Captifs, la Libération

The association works with street people and those involved in (and at risk of) prostitution, a good many of whom are victims of trafficking in human beings, in the streets and wooded areas of Paris. Its teams of volunteers and employees have developed expertise in meeting, identifying, welcoming and supporting the people they meet. The association's current priorities include specifically identifying, approaching and supporting child victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as raising awareness among the public authorities and society as a whole about issues of trafficking.

[www.captifs.fr](http://www.captifs.fr)  
[siege@captifs.fr](mailto:siege@captifs.fr)

## The “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective (continued)

### **Comité Contre l’Esclavage Moderne (CCEM)**

Formed in 1994 to combat all forms of slavery and servitude, the Comité Contre l’Esclavage Moderne quickly specialised in taking care of people who are victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of exploitation through labour, particularly domestic work, but also in the building and catering sectors, craft workshops and agriculture. Alongside the legal support provided to the people they help to recover their rights and dignity, the association has put in place tools designed to meet their socio-educational and psychological needs. The hundreds of legal proceedings monitored by the CCEM since its formation give it a level of knowledge and expertise that are recognised by both institutions and associations. Based on this expertise, the CCEM carries out awareness-raising and advocacy activities with the public authorities and professionals concerned.

[www.esclavagemoderne.org](http://www.esclavagemoderne.org)  
[info@ccem.org](mailto:info@ccem.org)

### **Comité protestant évangélique pour la dignité humaine**

The Comité protestant évangélique pour la dignité humaine promotes respect for human dignity, defence and protection for children’s, women’s and men’s rights and the right to life of all human beings.

[www.cpdh.org](http://www.cpdh.org)  
[contact@cpdh.eu](mailto:contact@cpdh.eu)

### **Congrégation Notre-Dame-de-Charité-du-Bon-Pasteur**

The nuns of the Congrégation Notre-Dame-de-Charité-du-Bon-Pasteur are involved in combating trafficking at the local, national and international level in 72 countries.

[www.bonpasteur.com](http://www.bonpasteur.com)  
[andrea.tillmanns@guterhirte.de](mailto:andrea.tillmanns@guterhirte.de)

### **COFRADE**

The Conseil français des associations pour les droits de l’enfant (COFRADE) aims to protect children from trafficking in human beings, dismantle trafficking networks and eradicate all forms of human trafficking – a battle that needs to be fought at all levels, in all countries.

[www.cofrade.fr](http://www.cofrade.fr)  
[cofrade.contact@gmail.com](mailto:cofrade.contact@gmail.com)

### **ECPAT France**

ECPAT France works to combat the sexual exploitation of children. As a result, it fights all forms of abuse and exploitation that might contribute to it, particularly trafficking children.

[www.ecpat-france.org](http://www.ecpat-france.org)  
[contact@ecpat-france.org](mailto:contact@ecpat-france.org)

### **Espoir-CFDJ Service Jeunes Errants**

For Espoir-CFDJ Service Jeunes Errants, combating trafficking in human beings is also about a commitment to and involvement in efforts to respect children’s best interests and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

[www.espoir-cfdj.fr](http://www.espoir-cfdj.fr)  
[jeuneserrants@espoir-cfdj.fr](mailto:jeuneserrants@espoir-cfdj.fr)

### **La Fédération de l’Entraide Protestante (FEP)**

The Fédération de l’Entraide Protestante (FEP) works to combat trafficking in human beings and all forms of exploitation of human deprivation, in particular by providing assistance to people who are victims of sexual exploitation, forced labour, etc. The federation’s member associations are involved in welcoming and providing accommodation, legal and social support for vulnerable people in these situations, particularly foreigners and minors. The Fédération de l’Entraide Protestante engages in advocacy with French and European political bodies to ensure better protection for victims.

[www.fep.asso.fr](http://www.fep.asso.fr)  
[contact@fep.asso](mailto:contact@fep.asso)

### **Jean and Jeanne Scelles Foundation**

The Jean and Jeanne Scelles Foundation aims to combat trafficking for the purpose of prostitution through documentary resources, information, providing insights and raising awareness among public actors and other stakeholders in society.

[www.fondationscelles.org](http://www.fondationscelles.org)  
[fondationscelles@wanadoo.fr](mailto:fondationscelles@wanadoo.fr)

### **Hors la rue**

The Hors la rue association works with foreign minors in danger in the Paris region. It supports children and adolescents who are the most vulnerable but least likely to ask for help by walking the streets on a daily basis and running a day centre. It guides minors who are being exploited and victims of trafficking in human being on their basic rights under the law.

[www.horslarue.org](http://www.horslarue.org)  
[contact@horslarue.org](mailto:contact@horslarue.org)

### Justice et Paix France

For Justice et Paix France, trafficking in human beings is an attack on human dignity and a scourge that must be fought relentlessly.

[www.justice-paix.cef.fr](http://www.justice-paix.cef.fr)  
[justice.paix@cef.fr](mailto:justice.paix@cef.fr)

### La Cimade

The association aims to protect people’s rights, particularly for foreigners. One of its main activities is welcoming, guiding and defending foreigners who find themselves facing administrative difficulties related to residency or asylum.

[www.lacimade.org](http://www.lacimade.org)  
[infos@lacimade.org](mailto:infos@lacimade.org)

### Les Champs de Booz

The association Les Champs de Booz welcomes and monitors single women applying for asylum in the Île-de-France region on a preventive basis, in light of their particular vulnerability to trafficking.

[www.champsdebooz.fr](http://www.champsdebooz.fr)  
[pilotage.booz@cegetel.net](mailto:pilotage.booz@cegetel.net)

### Le Mouvement du Nid

Members of Le Mouvement du Nid work with several thousand prostitutes and support over a thousand of them into alternatives to prostitution. During the course of their work, they meet child victims of trafficking and some who are treated as adults, but whom they assume are still minors. They are also involved in prevention activities with young people to improve equality in sexual relationships free from any form of commercial transaction.

[www.mouvementdunid.org](http://www.mouvementdunid.org)  
[nidnational@mouvementdunid.org](mailto:nidnational@mouvementdunid.org)

### International Organization Against Modern Slavery (OICEM)

Formed in 2001, the International Organization Against Modern Slavery (OICEM) supports children, men and women who are victims of all current forms of slavery, trafficking in human beings, servitude and forced labour. All victims are offered legal assistance, psychological and socio-educational support. Particular attention is paid to situations that affect children, child exploitation or exposure to the fact of exploitation, which constitute a serious infringement of their rights and an attack on their mental and physical integrity. OICEM does important work in prevention and awareness raising, and participates in working groups, research and conferences.

[www.oicem.org](http://www.oicem.org)  
[info@oicem.org](mailto:info@oicem.org)

### Planète Enfants

Planète Enfants’ vision is a world where adults protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation. Its aim is to combat child trafficking so that children are no longer the subject of commercial transactions.

[www.planete-enfants.org](http://www.planete-enfants.org)  
[contact@planete-enfants.org](mailto:contact@planete-enfants.org)

### SOS Esclaves

SOS ESCLAVES supports all victims of trafficking in human beings, including minors, but specialises particularly in providing legal, social and psychological support for victims of domestic servitude. Its aim, once they have been recognised as victims, is to help them to obtain citizenship.

[www.sos-esclaves.com](http://www.sos-esclaves.com)  
[sosesclaves@gmail.com](mailto:sosesclaves@gmail.com)

### Secours Catholique Caritas France

Secours Catholique – Caritas France coordinates the «Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective. Combating trafficking in human beings is about breaking the vicious circle driven by poverty, which maintains the phenomenon. It involves providing information, listening, reporting, taking action and engaging in advocacy, together, at the local and global level. Secours Catholique – Caritas France is also a member of the European platform for combating trafficking in human beings, created by the European Commission. It is also a member of the steering group of the COATNET global network against trafficking in human beings run by Caritas Internationalis, ([www.coatnet.org](http://www.coatnet.org)) and cooperates with the UN Special Rapporteur, particularly on questions of trafficking in conflict or post-conflict situations.

[www.secours-catholique.org](http://www.secours-catholique.org)  
[genevieve.colas@secours-catholique.org](mailto:genevieve.colas@secours-catholique.org)

This booklet has been produced by the “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective, in conjunction with the film **#INVISIBLES**: a 16-minute short film directed by Guido Freddi, with production by **LYO – Les Yeux Ouverts** and executive production by **CASADEI Productions**.

The booklet is illustrated with photographs taken during filming: the children shown in the photos are therefore the actors from the film.

The cartoons were based on the screenplay written by Guido Freddi and Ilaria Borrelli.

## LYO – Les Yeux ouverts

LYO – Les Yeux ouverts is a non-profit association formed under French law, whose aim is to support audiovisual productions with a high level of ethical content at every stage of their development. Its objective is to stimulate viewers to get involved in social issues based on audiovisual materials.

In the last 15 years, audiovisual imagery has been the subject of extensive research, particularly in the neurological field, and all the studies carried out agree on the importance of its psychological impact. Until now, this information has been exploited by the major advertising agencies, with no explicit requirement for an ethical commitment. It is high time audiovisual tools of this kind were used for the benefit of society. The film **#INVISIBLES** aligns perfectly with the institutional goals set by the founders of LYO, who have been committed to combating child exploitation for several years.

[lyo.guido@gmail.com](mailto:lyo.guido@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/LYOlesyeuxouverts/](https://www.facebook.com/LYOlesyeuxouverts/)

## CasaDei

CasaDei Productions is a documentary and institutional film production company created in 1994 by Jean Baptiste Martin and Marie Mitterrand. In conjunction with the association Les Yeux ouverts, it offered to support this project as a way of contributing to the important, universal issue of combating trafficking in human beings



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## Thanks

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Geneviève Avenard

Michel Forst

**Short film #INVISIBLES (16 minutes 26)**

And 3 separate mini-films:

**Child trafficking for the purpose of domestic servitude (7 minutes 35)**

**Child trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (9 minutes 50)**

**Child trafficking for the purpose of forced begging (5 minutes 38)**

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# #INVISIBLES

**CONTRE**  
 **LA TRAITE**  
**DES ÊTRES HUMAINS**

**AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN  
HUMAN BEINGS**

Member associations of the “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Collective.

Action Catholique des Femmes, AFJ, Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants, Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme, Amicale du Nid, Armée du Salut, Association pour la Réadaptation Sociale, Aux Captifs la Libération, Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne, Comité Protestant Évangélique pour la Dignité Humaine, Congrégation Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur, Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l'Enfant, ECPAT France, Espoir-CFDJ Service Jeunes Errants, Fédération de l'Entraide Protestante, Jean and Jeanne Scelles Foundation, Hors la rue, Justice et Paix France, La Cimade, Les Champs de Booz, Mouvement du Nid, International Organization Against Modern Slavery, Planète Enfants, SOS Esclaves, Secours Catholique - Caritas France

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