Combating the sexual exploitation of children in South Asia

Evolving Trends, Existing Responses and Future Priorities

ecpat

Regional Overview: Combating the sexual exploitation of children in South Asia. Evolving trends, existing responses and future priorities

Writer: Dr. Eliana Riggio Chaudhuri

Disclaimer
This report does not set out to be a comprehensive study. The information presented in the report was collected from a number of open source materials and documents available to the public. While care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information presented, it may not always be exact and ECPAT International makes no representation or warranty that the report is free of error or omission. Readers should further be aware that laws cited may have been amended or repealed since the time of writing. The information is sometimes linked to external sites over which ECPAT International has no control and for which ECPAT International assumes no responsibility.

The presentation of graphics, tables or maps in this report does not necessarily imply that ECPAT International and its member organizations officially endorse, accept or express any other opinion regarding the legal status of the delineation of national, territorial or regional frontiers or boundaries, geographic names, or the legitimacy of authorities.

ACRONYMS

ANDSF	Afghan National Defense and Security Forces
ATSEC	Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
BBA	Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) (India)
BCMD	Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
CBATN	Cross Border Anti-Trafficking Network (Bangladesh, India, Nepal)
CBCPC	Community Based Child Protection Committee (Bangladesh)
CCDP	Comprehensive Child Development Programme (India)
CCPA	Child Care and Protection Act (Bhutan)
CEFM	Child, early and forced marriage
CFLG	Child Friendly Local Governance
CHI	Child Helpline International
CINI	Child in Need Institute (India)
CLA	Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (India)
COPWG	Child Online Protection Working Group
CRBP	Children's Rights and Business Principles
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRR	Center for Reproductive Rights (Nepal)
CSAM	Child sexual abuse material
CSEC	Commercial sexual exploitation of children
CSR	Child Sex Ratio / Corporate social responsibility
CWC	The Concern for Working Children (Indian CSO)
CWIN	Child Workers in Nepal
DEITY	Department of Electronics and Information Technology (India)
DISC	Developing Internet Safe Community Foundation (India)
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency (Pakistan)
FIR(s)	First Information Report(s) (India)
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit (Nepal)
GoI	Government of India
GSMA	Mobile Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse
HCD	High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh
HMA	Hindu Marriage Act (India)
ICMA	Indian Christian Marriage Act
ICMEC	International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ICT(s)	Information and Communication Technology(ies)
IDP(s)	Internally displaced person(s)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPC	Indian Penal Code
ISP(s)	Internet Service Provider(s)
ITES	IT enabled services
ITPA	Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (Nepal)
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

IWF	Internet Watch Foundation (UK)
KILA	Kerala Institute of Local Administration
LDCA	Live-distant child abuse
LGI(s)	Local government institution(s)
MCA	Missing Child Alert (India, Bangladesh, Nepal)
MP	Member of Parliament
MNR	WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response
MWCD	Ministry of Women, Children and Development (India)
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (Nepal)
NACG	National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children
NCC	National Coordinating Committee
NCPCR	Indian National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau (India)
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
NPA(s)	National Plans of Action
NTA	Nepal Telecommunications Authority
NTF	National Anti-Trafficking Task Force (Sri Lanka)
OCIA	Organised Crime Investigation Agency (India)
OCSE	Online Child Sexual Exploitation
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPSC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
P2P	Peer-to-Peer
PATA	Pacific Asian Travel Association
PCMA	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (India)
PMDA	Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act (India)
POCSO	India's Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012
PTA	Pakistan Telecommunications Authority
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
RAP	SAIEVAC Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of all Forms of Child Labour in South Asia, 2016-2021
REACH	Reducing Exploitation and Abuse of Children through Strengthening the National Child Protection System (project by Save the Children, Bangladesh and West Bengal, India)
RTE	India's Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAACH	South Asia Association of Child Helplines
SACCS	South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude
SACEPS	South Asia Centre for Policy Studies
SACG	South Asia Coordinating Group on Violence against Women and Children
SAIEVAC	South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)

SEC	Sexual exploitation of children
SECTT	Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism
SGIM	Self-generated indecent material
SHE	Society for Health Education (Maldives)
SID	Safer Internet Day (India)
SPARC	Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (Pakistan)
SR	Special Rapporteur
TiP	Trafficking in Persons
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UFTAA	Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations
UIDAI	Unique Identification Authority of India
ULB	Urban Local Bodies (India)
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
VAC	Violence Against Children
VDC(s)	Village Development Committee(s) (India)
VLCPC	Village-Level Child Protection Committee (India)
VR	Virtual Reality
WLCPC	Ward-Level Child Protection Committee (India)
YFHS	Youth Friendly Health Services (Bhutan)
YPP	ECPAT Youth Partnership Project for Child Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in South Asia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

The rapid economic growth and development that has occurred in South Asia in recent years has benefited millions of people. However, it has also opened the possibility of new forms of violence against children. ECPAT International and its regional network partners have been particularly vigilant about the sexual abuse and exploitation that threatens children living in the eight SAARC countries. Although sexual violence is a problem of global dimensions, its impact on South Asian children is aggravated by the complex social and economic backdrop of the region.

South Asia is a land of contrasts. It is the fastest growing region in the world and leads rates of urbanisation and technological development. Yet it also contains the largest concentration of the world's poor and modern slaves. This results in the highest number of out-of-school children, child labourers and child brides. Low education levels, child trafficking, child labour (including domestic child labour), early marriage, unsafe migration, slavery and servitude, added to humanitarian crises caused by conflicts and climate change, work as powerful triggers in exposing children to harm in the region.

As fundamental children's rights are yet to be universally fulfilled, underage girls and boys are afflicted by trafficking for sexual purposes, online sexual exploitation and sexual exploitation by traveling sex offenders.

South Asian children are progressively connecting with child sex predators online. First generation cybernauts are finding in the Internet an extraordinary window on a world from where traditional South Asian communities were previously secluded. They may however have fewer instruments than peers in other regions of the world to defend themselves from online child sexual exploitation in a situation in which their own parents and teachers are often unaware of the risks. Poverty and marginalisation can create online victims of sexual exploitation even among children who are still denied access to Information and Communication Technologies.

Embracing the Sustainable Development Goals and international human rights frameworks, the SAARC Region has been proactive in addressing the growing menace of the sexual exploitation of children. National governments have increasingly recognised the problem and taken steps to mitigate it in policy, law and programming. The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) has been coordinating action among SAARC countries. An important milestone was reached at the 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting (9-11 May 2016) which resulted in a joint commitment by SAARC Member States to develop a region-wide strategy aimed at addressing this violation, online, in human trafficking, and in travel and tourism.

ECPAT International and its civil society network organisations active in the region are proud to partner with South Asian countries, SAARC and SAIEVAC in mobilising a multi-stakeholder initiative to address the sexual exploitation of children. Research and policy analysis carried out by ECPAT International in the region and last published in the 2014 document titled "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia. Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for Civil Society" is now distilled in the present overview which we offer to governments and civil society partners as an updated contribution to building evidence-based action to combat sexual exploitation of children in South Asia.

Dorothy Rozga
Executive Director
ECPAT International

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report offers an overview of the sexual of children (SEC), including in its commercial forms (CSEC), as it emerges in the eight countries that form South Asia – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – and are members of SAARC, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. A special focus is placed on three manifestations characterising the regional context, namely, online child sexual exploitation (OCSE), SEC in travel and tourism (SECTT) and SEC in child, early and forced marriage (CEFM). Research studies and regular data generation on issues relating to child sexual abuse and exploitation are scanty in the region because of the cultural sensitivity around the problem and lack of regular programme monitoring systems. This study seeks to offer an overview of the situation of children at risk or victims of SEC on the basis of existing evidence by

- Exploring emerging socio-economic drivers compounding the problem;
- Analysing the main manifestations of SEC in the specific regional context;
- Reviewing the policy and legal responses that enable or, to the contrary, hinder child protection and safety, further calling attention to persisting gaps; and
- Finally proposing a set of actions necessary to move forward in the fight against sexual violence against children in South Asia.

In 2014, ECPAT had produced a similar document titled The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia. Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for Civil Society. The present situation analysis not only provides an update of the earlier study, but also a new perspective on the problem. It investigates the various issues relating to SEC from the point of view of a society taking a new development path and undergoing a phase of fast and profound transformation. The point of observation is that of a complex change encompassing substantial economic growth, rapid urbanisation and migration. Increased wealth and mobility, together with the fast penetration of information and communication technologies, are offering unprecedented opportunities to the young generations of South Asians and opening new windows on the rest of the world. The same transformations, however, also expose young people to the risks typically associated with modern living, lifestyles and worldviews.

Section 1 of the report, the Introduction, seeks to sketch the backdrop against which SEC is occurring in South Asia as the new does not necessarily replace the old, but rather leads to a stratification of pre-existing and recent manifestations of sexual abuse, exploitation and violence. South Asia is a land of contrasts. As the region is poised to become, with the rest of Asia, the largest global market of the future, a sizeable portion of its population still lives in subsistence economies and traditional communities. The region ranks at the very top globally in a number of significant areas. Economically, South Asia is the fastest growing region worldwide; socially, it is leading the urbanisation of the planet (with the rest of Asia and Africa); and technologically, India alone is one of the three markets with the highest numbers of mobile accounts among young people in the South of the world.

However, despite such impressive progress, globally the region still accounts for the largest concentration of people living in absolute poverty; displays some of the worst human development outcomes in areas such as healthcare, schooling and per capita expenditure or income; hosts the majority of modern slaves trapped in forced prostitution, forced marriage, forced labour and organ trafficking; is home to the largest number of child brides and child labourers; is responsible for the bulk of the out-of-school children (together with West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa); and, jointly with Sub-Saharan Africa, accounts for over three quarters of child deaths caused by climate change in recent decades. If history is any guide, the constantly growing size and speed of human and financial flows in the absence of adequate protection policies for vulnerable populations may lead to a hike in sexual violence against children in the future. Research activities in the realm of SEC will need to increasingly focus on such influential trends to analyse how systemic change may impact the safety and protection of children by transforming the root causes of child abuse.

Within this backdrop, Section 2 analytically reviews several manifestations of SEC as these emerge in a number of settings such as

- Information and communication technologies, whose penetration in South Asia has been growing at a substantially faster pace than other kinds of infrastructure and services necessary for human development, while also, in parallel, rapidly multiplying risks relating primarily to the creation and trade of child sexual abuse material by perpetrators displaying a sexual interest in children, and to sexual harassment and extortion of children online by perpetrators generally known to the victims;
- Travel and tourism, in the context of rising trends in international tourist arrivals, matched with a steady increase in domestic travellers who can now reach out to children in novel settings such as homestays or childcare institutions;
- Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), which local cultures may view as a form of protection from sexual harassment for adolescent girls rather than as a condition that can expose girls and women to life-long systematic sexual violence;
- Child trafficking still persisting in South Asian countries, despite efforts in this area having been more systematised and institutionalised than in others over time;
- Sexual exploitation of children (SEC), continuing in the context of the traditional sex trade and now evolving in technology-facilitated forms;
- Child labour, often unrecognised as a vast reservoir for sexual exploitation, but in fact being a major channel to SEC, especially in certain occupations, such as domestic labour, widespread across South Asia; and
- Humanitarian crises, conflicts and environmental disasters, which dramatically exacerbate the pre-existing vulnerabilities of children and weaken the capacity of poor communities to protect their families.

Section 3 reviews existing legal, policy and programme responses being implemented at local, national and regional levels to address SEC in the areas highlighted in the previous

section, while also seeking to identify major gaps and challenges. All South Asian countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC), in addition to other important regional instruments (such as the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, and the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia). However, the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons has been fully ratified by only Afghanistan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, while none of the SAARC countries has so far developed national legislation harmonised with the OPSC, specific laws addressing issues such as SECTT or OCSE, or substantive extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Progressive policies have been designed in the areas of protection of children from sexual offences, trafficking, child labour and early marriage by most countries in the region, while initial attempts have been made to respond to online threats, mainly by setting up web-based portals aimed at spreading information on child trafficking, tracking down trafficked and missing children, and supporting confidential reporting. Lack of proper awareness, implementation and enforcement, however, emerges as the main challenge with regard to the implementation of policies and laws.

In addition to efforts by governments, the growing South Asian private sector has also started contributing proactively, especially by adopting more stringent corporate social responsibility (CSR) guidelines. Its involvement in the realm of SEC, however, remains rather limited, especially with reference to the ICT and travel and tourism industries whose role in preventing harm by online and travelling child sex predators would be particularly relevant. Civil society organisations continue to play a key role in the fight against the various manifestations of SEC, although the scope of their interventions may be normally limited to the local level and not always receive adequate support or recognition by the government.

Children's and young people's groups have become more active in combatting SEC, even though they need more opportunities to access sexuality education, enhance awareness about online and offline threats, and gain further agency.

An important platform for coordination among the various partners involved is the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), a SAARC Apex body acting, since 2005, as an inter-governmental mechanism committed to promoting the rights and protection of children at the regional level. Especially relevant in the context of SEC has been the recent 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting, held from 9-11 May 2016 in New Delhi, which led to a joint commitment by SAARC Member States to frame a region-wide strategy with the aim of tackling the sexual of children, especially online, through trafficking, and in travel and tourism.

Despite increasing appreciation for issues relating to SEC both online and offline and commitments made to tackle the problem, the report identifies a number of gaps that challenge more effective and resolute action against child sex offending in the region. In order to address such gaps, Section 4 proposes a set of policy recommendations in the following areas:

- Developing a SAARC regional strategy to address SEC in its various forms coherently at the local, national and regional levels;
- Strengthening data, research, monitoring and evaluation activities to enhance regular and consistent data gathering and analysis, especially in the core areas of OCSE, SECTT and child trafficking to support evidence-based policymaking, awareness generation and capacity building, as well as to measure progress in the context of SDG targets 16.2, 5.2, 5.3 and 8.7;
- Enhancing the design, implementation and monitoring of National Plans of Action (NPAs) for children, ensuring that they incorporate activities to curb the entire array of interwoven forms of SEC prevailing in the region;
- Ratifying all relevant conventions and developing domestic legislation within the framework of international law, particularly in emerging areas such as SECTT and OCSE, with the aim of also reaching a consensus on terminology and definitions;
- Promoting systemic approaches in the law enforcement, the judiciary and the child protection sectors to strengthen effective law enforcement responses; increase access to justice by child victims; and provide adequate identification, rescue and restoration to OCSE victims;
- Intensifying collaboration among government, non-government, private sector and civil society partners to achieve integrated SEC-inclusive programming, converging with existing basic services, schools and communities responsible for child protection;
- Involving children's and survivors' groups to help build inclusive child-friendly governance systems that place child safety and protection at the core of planning and budgeting; and
- Strengthening extraterritorial legislation and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, particularly in cross-border operations.

The conclusion finally advocates for expanding the methodological range in the battle against SEC in the region from a traditional approach prioritising recovery of victims to a preventive mode, including the removal of the structural vulnerabilities that make SEC inevitable. While, unfortunately, it is likely that South Asia needs to continue to deal with child victims for years to come, the region can hope to resolutely address such a widespread and serious problem by widening its strategic vision to preventively build social safety nets in the family, the community, the school, institutions, the workplace, and child protection and other basic services, in order to keep its communities safe from all forms of sexual violence against children.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for this study was a desk review of existing literature relating to the main manifestations of sexual exploitation of children (SEC) as these emerge in the context of South Asia, with special attention paid to online child sexual exploitation (OCSE), in travel and tourism (SECTT) and in child, early and forced marriage (CEFM). Relevant sources included journal articles, reports, books and media articles mainly published since 2014 (the date of the publication of the previous ECAPT SEC regional overview), although some relevant or historical publications may predate that reference year. Information was sourced online as well as through contacts with organisations and individuals active in the region. The main limitations of the study relate, on the one hand, to the limits implicit in secondary data and, on the other, to the selection of information that, done with a view to capture the most up-to-date and relevant facts and analysis, inevitably fails to reflect the entire range of information available on such a complex topic and geographical area.

Both quantitative and qualitative data has been gathered and analysed in order to prepare subsequent drafts of the report. The study methodology has finally encompassed peer-reviewing to inform various drafts leading to the final version of the report.

BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNISATION. OLD AND NEW VULNERABILITIES OF CHILDREN IN SOUTH ASIA

1.1 Introduction. The modernisation of a traditional continent: Old risks for children converge with new ones

Today's South Asia suffers from a generational disconnect. Young people are likely to be substantially more educated, affluent, urbanised and tech-savvy than their parents. While this may be truer for the wealthier and upwardly mobile classes, even the poor in the region have been experiencing a transformation in some ancestral ways of life.

In many different ways, this is the time of South Asia. The eight countries that form the region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, all members of SAARC, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation – have experienced rapid social and economic changes, with intensified regional integration and liberalisation of markets, an all-encompassing shift that has been affecting currently held norms and practices. The pace at which the Subcontinent is evolving along interconnected economic, urbanisation and modernisation paths is unprecedented in Asia and among the fastest globally. The consecutive attempts made particularly by India over the past couple of decades to overcome the system of near-autarky, maintained since Independence in the middle of the last century, by liberalising its markets and reforming political manifestations of isolationism have led this prominent country, and the region as a whole, to open up new vistas on the rest of the world.[1] The economic boom impacting India and other South Asian nations has been associated with massive migration and rapid urbanisation, which together have merged into an overall process of modernisation.

At this critical time of transition, while South Asia shares with the rest of Asia the prospect of becoming the largest global market of the future, a sizeable portion of its population still lives in subsistence economies. Similarly, although the new development path has been affecting deep-rooted traditional beliefs and cultural traits, which have started progressively giving way to secular values and attitudes, the culture and traditions of such a historically insular region are unlikely to hail a revolution overnight.

---

1   PBS. *Commanding Heights:* India. Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh commandingheights/lo/countries/in/in_full.html

As modernisation takes place, this is hardly a linear path. The new does not automatically replace the old, and traditional and progressive worldviews tend to coexist in contemporary South Asia in a way that strengths and weaknesses of the past are superimposed on new strengths and weaknesses emerging in the present. There is no doubt that the region's impressive cultural, historical and philosophical heritage is likely to enrich current transformations, impressing a unique South Asian mark. Attention, however, must be paid to prevent new evils from compounding old ones. In a setting that continues to be plagued with deep disparities, there is a risk that the weaker sections of society are left at the margins of the development process underway.

Among the most vulnerable segments, children are more prone to be victimised in both the old and the new worlds evolving side by side. Ancient brothels engaging trafficked girls survive alongside online child sexual exploitation; sexual abuse and exploitation of out-of-school child workers occur alongside cyber bullying targeting school going pupils; sexually abused child brides coexist with college educated girls engaging in sexual exploitation through social media to make extra money to buy status goods now available on the consumer market.

New information and communication technologies (ICT), being eagerly adopted by the new generations, provide boundless opportunities, along with many risks. Poor children who have been, historically, primary targets of sexual exploitation as a result of economic pressure may continue to be exposed to sexual violence in its new forms. More affluent children who may have been protected from street-type sexual harassment, so far, are now potentially exposed to consumption and production of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. As UNICEF points out, the online and offline environments cannot be separated. Child sexual exploitation may start online and continue offline – or vice versa.[2]

Two decades after the inaugural World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children that, in 1996, had stemmed from a special concern for Asia,[3] tackling CSEC remains an open challenge in South Asia, despite several regional, as well as international and national initiatives having been mobilised to address it. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations to help eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030, addresses, among its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 associated targets, issues around sexual exploitation of children from several key angles.

2   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia.* (2016), p. 13, Accessed on 2 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/rosa/Victims_are_not_virtual.pdf.
3   ECPAT International. *1st World Congress – 1966*. Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://ecpatinternational.org/ei/Global_worldCongressl.asp.

In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda, the broad objective of ending sexual exploitation :

- Reflected in SDG target 16.2, committing to ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children;
- Supported by SDG target 5.2, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation;
- Complemented by SDG target 5.3, seeking to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; and
- Further reinforced by SDG target 8.7, directing States to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

The cross-cutting SDG target 16.7, aimed at ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, opens new doors to participation by all, including children, in building a SEC-free world in the new millennium.

Recently, the 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting, held from 9-11 May 2016, in New Delhi, resulted in a joint commitment by SAARC Member States to develop a region-wide strategy to tackle sexual exploitation of children, especially online, in trafficking, and in travel and tourism.[4] The event followed the High Level Roundtable Meeting on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to Violence against Children in South Asia. Held from 14-15 March 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, organised by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat in collaboration with the South Asia Coordinating Group on Violence against Children (SACG), and under the leadership of ECPAT International and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, the aim was to build a common understanding and a regional strategy to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets related to violence against children.[5] Appreciating the spread and nature of sexual exploitation of children across the traditional and modern pieces that comprise the contemporary South Asian puzzle is key to developing counteractive responses that are likely to embrace the entire range of the problem within evolving global and regional platforms.

4   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Adopted recommendations of the 4th SAIEVAC ministerial meeting.* 9-11 May 2016, New Delhi, India. (2016), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/recommendations_of_4th_ministerial_meeting/ Circulation%20-%20Adopted%20Recommendations%20of%20the%204th%20SAIEVAC%20 Ministerial%20Meeting%20(F)_opt.pdf.

5   ECPAT International. *High Level Meeting on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals Relating to Violence against Children in South Asia*, Press Release, Accessed on 18 August 2017 from: http://www.ecpat.org/news/high-level-meeting-implementation-sustainable-development-goals-relating-violence-against-0/.

1.2 Growing economies and widening gaps

South Asia is the world's fastest growing region. Its present economic growth is projected to continue in the coming future.[6] Although not following a continuous or linear growth trajectory like the one experienced by neighbouring China, South Asia's economy, led by India, has expanded substantially.[7] Prosperity has risen along with an increase in productivity linked to the rising number of people living in urban areas.[8] South Asia's real GDP has grown by 7.3 percent in 2016, and is forecasted to rise to 7.4 percent in 2017.[9] While the rate of economic growth in the region has been considerable, questions have arisen on whether this growth is inclusive. According to the World Bank's poverty measures, while individuals living on less than US$1.25 a day have been declining to less than one in three in 2010, as compared to one in two in 1999, the region still accounts for the largest concentration of people living in absolute poverty in the world.[10]

South Asia's real GDP grew by 7.3% in 2016

GDP 7.3%
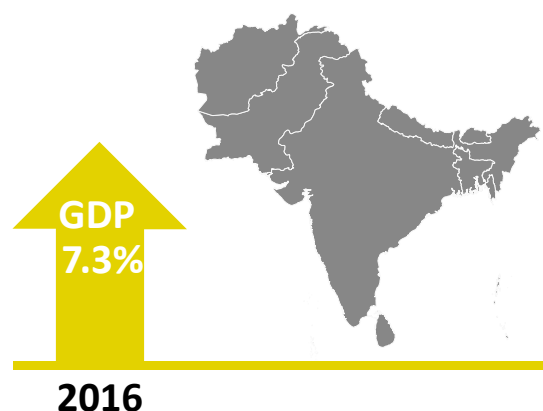
2016

The Global Slavery Index 2016 estimated that the top five countries ranking globally for modern slavery are concentrated in Asia: India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan. Three of them represent the largest South Asian nations.[11] With 18,354,700 people estimated in conditions of modern slavery (trapped in bonded labour, domestic service, forced begging, sexual exploitation and forced marriage), India's volume of modern slaves is as large as the

6   Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). United Nations. *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2017*. (2017), Accessed on 20 January 2017 from: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/2017wesp_full_en.pdf.

7   McGranahan, G; Walnycki, A; Clark, D; Houston, R. International Institute for Environment and Development. *Reading national signatures in income-urbanisation space, Visualisation*. (2014), Accessed on 4 December 2016 from: http://www.iied.org/urbanisation-income-data.

8   Ellis, P and Roberts, M. World Bank Group. *Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia: Managing Spatial Transformation for Prosperity and Livability. South Asia Development Matters*. (2016), p. 1, Accessed on 4 December 2016 from: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22549/9781464806629.pdf.

9   International Monetary Fund (IMF). *Regional Economic Outlook. Asia and Pacific. Building on Asia's Strengths during Turbulent Times. World Economic and Financial Surveys*. (2016), p. 43, Accessed on 4 December 2016 from: https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2016/apd/eng/pdf/areo0516.pdf.

10   "Until the year 2015, extreme poverty was defined using the $1.25 poverty line, based on the 2005 PPP exchange rates. Since the publication of the Global Monitoring Report 2015/2016, the poverty line is defined by a consumption threshold at $1.90, using the 2011 PPP exchange rates". Ellis, P and Roberts, M. World Bank Group. *Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia: Managing Spatial Transformation for Prosperity and Livability. South Asia Development Matters*. (2016), pp. xi, 1.

11   The Global Slavery Index. *The Global Slavery Index 2016*. (2016), p. 4, Accessed on 8 December 2016 from: http://assets.globalslaveryindex.org/downloads/GSI-2016-Full-Report.pdf.

population of an entire country.[12] Bangladesh is home to 1,531,300 modern slaves subjected to forced prostitution, forced marriage, forced labour and organ trafficking.[13]

Urbanisation, which has been accompanying economic growth, has thus far not been the answer to poverty. Urban poverty and inequality, in fact, can be regarded at present as the other, emerging face of the more acknowledged South Asian rural poverty and inequality. Recent evidence is disclosing that, despite the comparative advantage enjoyed by cities, urban centres are even more unequal than rural areas, leading analysists to speak of the urbanisation of poverty in parts of the Subcontinent.[14]

Inequality has often been identified as a major hindrance to human development despite economic growth.[15] Access to income, basic services and agency continue to remain limited at the bottom of the social pyramid, raising concern about the capacity of the new prosperity to tackle poverty. Although South Asia cannot be considered the poorest region in the world, some of its human development outcomes are the worst worldwide, as evidenced by data in the areas of healthcare,[16] schooling[17] and per capita expenditure or income.[18]

1.3 Rapid urbanisation and mass migration: Children and offenders on the move

Children in an urbanising region
The South Asian economic boom has been accompanied by unprecedented urbanisation. The new generations are projected to grow up in a rapidly urbanising region. The wealth of South Asian nations is being concentrated in urban areas, recognised as engines of growth. Urban India is projected to generate 70 percent of the national GDP by 2030.[19] Formerly a predominantly vast rural region, South Asia has seen its physical and social contours redesigned by sprawling urban landscapes over the brief course of this century.

---

12   *Ibid*., pp. 108-110.
13   The Global Slavery Index. *The Global Slavery Index 2016. Bangladesh*. Accessed on 8 December 2016 from: http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/country/bangladesh/.
14   Datt, G; Ravallion, M; Murgai. R. *Poverty reduction in India: Revisiting past debates with 60 years of data*. VOX CEPR's Policy Portal, 26 March 2016, Accessed on 6 December 2016 from:http://voxeu. org/article/revisiting-poverty-reduction-india-60-years-data.
15   Dréze, J and Sen, A. *An Uncertain Glory. India and Its Contradictions*. Penguin Books, London (2013).
16   International Monetary Fund (IMF). *Regional Economic Outlook. Asia and Pacific. Building on Asia's Strengths during Turbulent Times. World Economic and Financial Surveys.* (2016), p. 109.
17   Rama, M; Béteille, T; Li, Y; Mitra, PK; Newman, JL. World Bank Group. *Addressing Inequality in South Asia. South Asia Development Matters*. (2015), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: https:// openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/20395.
18   Kanbur, R; Rhee, C; Zhuang, J. Asian Development Bank and Routledge. *Inequality in Asia and the Pacific. Trends, drivers, and policy implications*. (2014), pp. 1, 32, Accessed on 7 December 2016 from: https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/41630/inequality-asia-and-pacific.pdf.
19   McKinsey Global Institute. *India's Urban Awakening. Building inclusive cities, sustaining economic growth*. (2010), p. 16, Accessed on 16 December 2016 from: http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/urbanization/urban-awakening-in-india.

The region contributes substantially to the urbanisation of a planet that has just reached the turning point from where more people live in urban than in rural areas.[20] South Asia, together with Africa, are projected to continue to lead the process.[21] These trends raise concern for urban poverty. UN data for 2014 indicates that the percentage of the slum population as a percentage of the urban population is high in South Asia, with Afghanistan, the most affected, exceeding levels of 62 percent.[22] The 2014 Sample Registration System (SRS) report estimates that 48.6 percent of Indian children between 0 and 14 years of age live in urban areas.[23]

Growing economies as engines for migration

The third element that, together with rapid urbanisation and the new wealth generated by market economies, has been reshaping the South Asian landscape is migration.[24] Sustained levels of mass migration have been closely associated with the progressive integration and liberalisation of markets characterising South Asia during the past twenty years. Seasonal, circular and permanent migration from impoverished rural areas to economically vibrant urban centres has been resulting in a diaspora, with millions of rural poor in search of livelihoods moving along rural to urban, urban to urban, inter-state and inter-country trajectories.[25]

20   India's 2011 Census marked what has been named a historic demographic shift indicating, for the first time ever, that the net decadal addition to the population over the 2001-2011 period was more in urban than in rural areas. Chandramouli, C. Registrar General & Census Commissioner. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Census of India 2011. *Rural Urban Distribution of Population. Provisional Population Totals*. (2011), Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/paper2/data_files/india/Rural_Urban_2011.pdf.

21   Just three countries—India, China and Nigeria— together are expected to be responsible for 37 percent of the projected growth of the global urban population between 2014 and 2050. Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, Highlights*. (2014), (ST/ESA/SER.A/352), p. 1. India alone is forecasted to add 404 million urban dwellers, followed by China with 292 million and Nigeria with 212 million.

22   *United Nation's Millennium Development Goals Indicators. The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators*. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/seriesdetail.aspx?srid=710.

23   Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. *SRS Statistical Report 2014. Population Composition*. (2014), Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRS_Report_2014/6.%20Chap%202-Population%20Composition-2014.pdf

24   Migration has been contributing to urbanisation along with natural growth, which, in countries like India, is still the primary contributor to the urbanising process underway. Save the Children and PWC. *Forgotten voices. The world of urban children in India*. (2015), p. 27, Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: https://www.savethechildren.in/sci-in/files/79/79bfb888-7ed0-496e-b1e7-e71f7814ea7e.pdf.

25   Bhagat, RB. International Organization for Migration (IOM). *World Migration Report 2015, Urban migration trends, challenges and opportunities in India*. (2016), p.16, Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/WMR-2015-Background-Paper-RBhagat.pdf.

More than 100 million Indians are involved in seasonal migration

In India 4 to 6 million children are believed to migrate seasonally

Children on the move, alone or with their families, forced or of their own accord, are far from a homogeneous group. Whether they move to seek employment, to be married off or to elope away from their homes, the line separating unsafe migration from trafficking is often fine against the backdrop of economic and sexual exploitation. With a staggering 100 million in India alone migrating seasonally on an annual basis, it is necessary to enhance migration outcomes for vulnerable migrant workers and protect the most vulnerable ones, young people in general and girls in particular, who are prone to exploitation along migration routes, at source and destination points.[26] Children and young people tend to follow established patterns of migration. South Asia – primarily Bangladesh and India – is characterised by especially high rates of independent child migration, with migrants leaving home between the ages of 13 and 17.[27] In India alone, 4 to 6 million children are believed to migrate seasonally.[28]

The size and complexity of the migratory movements emerging in contemporary South Asia require a deeper understanding of how children's safety is affected by migration from urban to rural, as well as from urban to urban settings, from peasant to urban-dweller lifestyles and from culturally secluded to culturally diverse societies. Research and policy in the region needs to clarify the link between increased mobility – triggered by economic growth and new technologies – and the risk of child sexual exploitation, exploring in particular the effects of unsafe migration, trafficking and travel.

26   According to Government of India, 92 percent of its national workforce is employed in the unorganised sector, with migrant workers forming the largest segment of this vulnerable population. National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS). *The Challenge of Employment in India. An Informal Economy Perspective. Volume I - Main Report*. (2009), Accessed on 16 December 2016 from http://nceuis.nic.in/The_Challenge_of_Employment_in_India.pdf.

27   Whitehead, A. *et al*. Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty. Child Migration, *Child Agency and Inter-Generational Relations in Africa and South Asia, Working Paper T24*. (2007), p. 10, Accessed on 18 December 2016 from: http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/working_papers/WP-T24.pdf.

28   International Labour Organization (ILO) and Understanding Children's Work (UCW). *Joining Forces against Child Labour: Interagency report for The Hague Global Child Labour Conference of 2010*. (2010), p. 58, Accessed on 21 December 2016 from: http://ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_126870/lang--en/index.htm.

Exclusive policies

While South Asian countries struggle to develop policies to extend local and social protection to the obscure masses of migrants, hardly any attention is being paid to the most vulnerable among them. These include children migrating with no identity documents, informally or illegally crossing regional and national borders, who typically end up in unidentified slums, where the risk of being exploited, sexually and in other ways, is linked to the need to survive as outsiders.

Children moving to slums along with their families, as well as unaccompanied young people in search of opportunities, are second-class citizens, bereft of civil and political rights. Over one third of children in urban areas worldwide are unregistered at birth, a figure that rises to about half in the urban areas of South Asia.[29] As homelessness increases as a result of slum clearance operations and evictions to make land available for commercial purposes, urban children in some parts of the region have surpassed their rural peers in enduring such harshness.[30] Whether living on the streets or sharing congested spaces with adults, children are deprived of basic privacy and exposed to promiscuity.

Children hidden in the folds of large human flows may amount in some cases to internally displaced persons who, in South Asia, are increasingly fleeing to urban areas after having been forced to abandon their homes because of conflict, human rights abuses and disasters.[31] Especially relevant to the region are the large-scale movements of environmental refugees, bound to increase in the wake of climate change-related disasters, especially in environmentally fragile states such as Bangladesh and Nepal. Invisible children, as UNICEF calls them,[32] hidden from public view and official statistics by working in middle-class homes as domestic servants, being married in squatter colonies, becoming engaged in brothels, and ending up trafficked into child labour, are citizens of South Asian countries that have enacted laws against early marriage, child labour and the sexual exploitation of children, but continue to be unable to protect them. National and municipal governments are often unequipped or unmotivated to develop long-term protection measures for children who, trapped in illegal settlements, illegal jobs and an illegal marital status, are regarded as 'illegal' themselves.

---

29   UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2012. Children in an Urban World.* (2012), p. 13, Accessed on 9 December 2016 from https://www.unicef.org/sowc2012/pdfs/SOWC%202012-Main%20Report_EN_13Mar2012.pdf.

30   Trend confirmed by the Census of India 2011 figures, which however have been challenged for being a gross underestimation of the problem by civil society organisations estimating the urban homeless population of India to be around 3 million. Housing and Land Rights Network. *Homelessness.* Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://hlrn.org.in/homelessness; *Housing and Land Rights Network. Housing and Land Rights in India: Status Report for Habitat III.* (2016), pp. 5-6, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://hlrn.org.in/documents/Housing_and_Land_Rights_in_India_Report_for_Habitat_III.pdf.

31   Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement. U*nder the radar: Internally displaced persons in non-camp settings.* (2013), Accessed on 21 December 2016 from: https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Under-the-radarIDPs-outside-of-camps-Oct-2013.pdf.

32   UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2012. Children in an Urban World.* (2012), p. 13.

1.4 The gender equation: Evolving and persisting social and sexual norms

Sexual abuse and exploitation of children as a gendered act

Gender issues remain an ongoing challenge for South Asia. While modernising trends impact social and sexual norms, patriarchal systems continue to dominate sexual relationships and gender-based violence is widespread in most of the region. Boys, who are expected to ensure economic and social security for the family, are normally viewed as assets. Conversely, girls, destined to marry and leave their parental homes, are often perceived as a liability, less deserving of long-term economic and emotional investment.

In South Asia, men earn one third more than women

< 33%
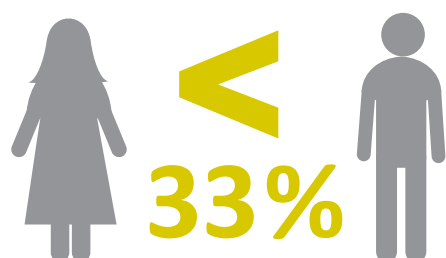
Discouraged from pursuing education and career paths leading to better-paying jobs, girls suffer from acute gender disparity in the labour market, resulting in South Asian female workers earning 33 percent less than their male counterparts.[33] Economic dependence on fathers and husbands further limit options for girls, including seeking alternatives to violent family environments.

Sexual abuse and exploitation may be ignored in situations where the priority is to protect family honour. In many parts of South Asia, marrying off a girl who has been sexually abused is nearly impossible. As a result, reporting of sexual abuse and exploitation tends to be low since it potentially damages the girl, rather than the perpetrator.[34] In Bhutan, only 1 in 10 children were found to share their experiences of sexual violence and harassment, and primarily with peers.[35] In Afghanistan, girl victims of sexual abuse may be re-victimised as the violation they have suffered may put them at further risk of honour killing or forced marriage to their rapist.[36] Overall, in the region, several issues around sexuality are considered taboo, especially when relating to unmarried women.

33   Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). United Nations. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015.* (2015), p. 30, Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%20 2015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf.

34   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia.* (2016), p. 22.

35   National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. *Study on violence against children in Bhutan.* (2016), p. 29, Accessed on 10 April 2017 from: http://www.ncwc.gov.bt/en/files/publication/consolidate%20report%20of%20the%20three%20phases.pdf.

36   The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. *Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia.* (n.d.), p. 12, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: https://www.afppd.org/Resources/Review-of-National-Legislations-and-Policies-on-Child-Marriage-in-South-Asia.pdf.

Acceptance of domestic violence is internalised not only by male perpetrators, but also by their victims. In Bhutan, the National Statistics Bureau's Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey 2010 revealed that about 70 percent of women stated that they deserved beating if they neglected their children, argued with their partners, refused sex or spoiled meals.[37] An ActionAid poll released in November 2016 estimated that over four in 10 women (41 percent) in India experience harassment or violence before they turn 19.[38]

In Bhutan 70 % of women said they sometimes "deserved" beatings

70%

South Asian gender discrimination, perpetuated through ingrained social norms, is often formalised in the law. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan require lower age at marriage for women as compared to boys.[39] In Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, the law legitimises control over a woman's body and does not account for gender-based violence. It obligates a woman to fulfil her husband's sexual desires and denies the woman's – and the girl's – rights to consensual sex and to seek redress for marital rape.[40]

A persisting grossly unbalanced child sex ratio (CSR)[41] has had such vast implications for South Asia to have been defined as gendercide. Some argue that the excess male lump will need a larger sex industry, as wives will be in shortage for many single men in the future.[42] Despite increased education and information, gender disparities continue to grow while girls diminish in number. The child sex ratio in India has been on an unrelenting downward regression for

---

37   *Ibid.*, pp. 17-18. It must be noted that 'The Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan' (CCPA 2011) and 'Domestic Violence Prevention Act of Bhutan' (DVPA 2013) have contributed to addressing violence against women and children in the legal system of the country.

38   ActionAid. *Over 4 in 10 women in India experience harassment before the age of 19*. 25 November 2016, Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: https://www.actionaidindia.org/over-4-in-10-women-in-india-experience-harassment-before-the-age-of-19/.

39   The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. *Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia*. (n.d.), p. 9.

40   *Ibid*.

41   Child Sex Ratio is defined as the number of girls per 1,000 boys in the age group 0-6 years in a given population.

42   *Too many single men. The legacy of gendercide*. The Economist, 19 January 2017, Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21714992-long-ugly-legacy-gendercide-too-few-girls-too-many-men. Gendercide is a term used by *The Economist* in an effort to make the problem known in 2010.

over half a century.[43] As female infanticide persists and sex selective abortions have continued to circumvent clandestinely the law banning them, along with gender prediction tests,[44] the systematic neglect of the girl child does the rest with girls receiving less food, education and healthcare.[45]

Not only girls: Victimisation is also common in boys

Although in different manners, boys are also victims of sexual violence. As families normally consider their sons more capable of protecting themselves, they tend to deny the sexual abuse of boys, as well as consensual sexual relationships between males. Such cultural attitudes may partly explain why the sexual abuse of boys is even more underreported than that of girls.[46] In unpublished evidence from Pakistan, informants considered sex with young boys a matter of pride and a symbol of status. In conservative tribal communities, a boy is perceived as turning into a man when he marries. Before that, boys are considered sexually available to other men. The biological notion whereby a boy cannot get pregnant is often the basis for believing that they remain physically and emotionally unaffected by sexual abuse.[47]

In Bangladesh, boys account for up to 45 percent of sexual abuse cases

45%
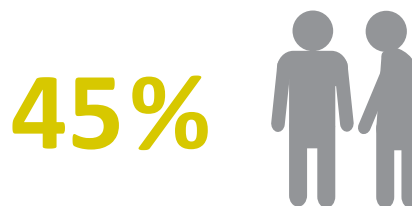
In South Asia, boys have been reported to be vulnerable to SEC mainly in the public sphere, in places such as streets, workplaces, junkyards, beaches, cinemas, parks, entertainment districts, transit hubs and prisons.[48] Girls are more likely to be victimised in the private sphere, or trafficked and sold into the formal sex industry, ending up in institutional settings including brothels and entertainment venues, such as bars or clubs.[49]

43   The Census of India 2011 estimated that the child sex ratio in the Country kept recording a decline also over the previous decade, dropping from 927 females per thousand males in 2001 to 919 in 2011 – a further deterioration of the 1991 situation displaying a CSR of 945. Chandramouli, C. Registrar General & Census Commissioner. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. *Census of India 2011. Child Sex Ratio in India*. (2011), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/child_sex_ratio_-_presentation_by_census_commissioner.pdf.

44   Yapi International. *Discrimination Against the Girl Child*. Accessed on 7 January 2017 from: http://yapi.org/childrens-rights/discrimination-against-the-girl-child/.

45   Rafferty, Y. *Ending Child Trafficking as a Human Rights Priority. Applying the Spectrum of Prevention as a Conceptual Framework*, in Sigal, JA and Denmark, FL (editors). Violence Against Girls and Women: International Perspectives. 2013, Volume 1 (In Childhood, Adolescence and Young Adulthood), Praeger, p. 161.

46   UNICEF. *Protecting Children from Violence: A comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF's strategies and programme performance.* (2015), p. 87, Accessed on 7 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_VAC.html.

47   *Ibid.*, p. 107.

48   *Ibid.*, pp. 90, 109.

49   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. *Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism*. (2016), p. 40, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from http://globalstudysectt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Offenders-on-the-Move.pdf.

Research has highlighted that a specific vulnerability factor for boys is growing up in brothels, while another driver is addiction, which may lead boys to exchange sex for drugs or money.[50] Evidence shows that in Bangladesh, boys may account for up to 45 percent of sexual abuse cases.[51] Furthermore, in some South Asian contexts, boys may be forced to enter prostitution as a requirement for social integration, like in the case of hijra communities, 'the dancing boys' of India, as this group, present particularly in India and Pakistan, was named in an early study.[52]

Policy, along with research, has tended to ignore the sexual exploitation of boys partly because they are rarely directly trafficked into sexual exploitation. Although laws forbidding the rape of boys and other forms of sexual abuse, such as sexual harassment and molestation, do exist in most South Asian countries, these are seldom implemented to protect sexually abused boys.[53] Legislation in Nepal establishes that child marriage with a boy constitutes a lesser offence than with a girl.[54]

1.5 Violence against children

South Asia has tended to conceptualise sexual exploitation of children within the broader canvas of violence against children (VAC). SAIEVAC has been especially proactive in framing SEC as a form of VAC. Violence stemming by those who should protect children, such as intimate partners or those acting within the circle of trust, has raised most concern. Some have argued that violence against children should be recognised as a public health issue. Most studies on domestic or intimate partner violence have focused on its impact on women and more research would be necessary from a child protection perspective.[55] Partner violence has been found to be pervasive in South Asia.

A 2014 UNICEF statistical analysis reported that at least one in five adolescent girls who have ever been married or in a union have experienced partner violence, with the problem being

50   Frederick, J. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia. A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses. Innocenti Working Paper.* (2010), pp. 14, 17.
51   *Ibid.*, pp. 46-47.
52   Lahiri, A and Kar. PLUS Kolkata. S. Dancing boys. *Traditional prostitution of young males in India. Situational assessment report on adolescents and young boys vulnerable to forced migration, trafficking and sexual exploitation in India, A Study Report on Launda Dancers.* (2007), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from RISE Learning Network at https://riselearningnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/dancing_boys.pdf; Balbierz, P. Hijras: The Battle for Equality. World Policy, 29 January 2014, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: http://www.worldpolicy.org/blog/2014/01/29/hijras-battle-equality.
53   Frederick, J. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia. A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses. Innocenti Working Paper.* (2010), pp. 19, 23.
54   The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. *Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia.* (n.d.), p. 29.
55   UNICEF. Behind Closed Doors. *The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children.* (2006), p. 3, Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf.

more acute in Bangladesh (47 percent) and India (34 percent).[56] While at least one in five adolescent girls reported incidents of physical violence by a partner – ranging from 16 percent in Nepal, where the prevalence was lowest, to 40 percent in Bangladesh, where it was highest among the countries with available data – more than 1 in 10 adolescent girls surveyed in Bangladesh, India and Nepal reported having experienced partner sexual violence. In Bangladesh, where the problem was most widespread, sexual violence was reported by about one in five ever-partnered girls in the age group 15 to 19.[57] Furthermore, close to 50 percent of South Asian boys aged 15 to 19 think a husband is justified in hitting his wife under certain circumstances. In this respect, data disclosed what may appear to be a paradox, suggesting that girls emerged as more thoroughly socialised than boys to oppressive patriarchal gender norms, which assign wives a lower status than their husbands. A larger proportion of girls than boys, in fact, believed that wife-beating is sometimes justified. In Pakistan, girls were found to be around twice as likely as boys to hold such belief.[58]

In South Asia 20 % of adolescent girls who have been married have experienced partner violence

20%

The link connecting domestic violence and child abuse has been widely recognised in both research and professional practice. UNICEF estimated that 40 percent of victims of child abuse reported domestic violence to be taking place in the home. It further assessed child victims of domestic violence in India as being in the range of 27.1 to 69 million.[59] Systematically across Indian cities, gender-based violence appears as a widespread problem among the urban poor, with national data indicating a higher prevalence of spousal violence, including sexual violence, in slums as compared to non-slum areas, especially among married women in the age group 15-49.[60] It is a common experience among organisations working with runaway children in the region to record beating by parents or stepparents and conflicts in the family, both in urban and rural areas, as one of the main reasons for fleeing the home and ending up on the street.[61]

56   UNICEF. *Hidden in plain sight. A statistical analysis of violence against children*. (2014), p. 132, Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://files.unicef.org/publications/files/Hidden_in_plain_sight_ statistical_analysis_EN_3_Sept_2014.pdf

57   *Ibid*.

58   *Ibid*.

59   UNICEF. *Behind Closed Doors. The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children*. (2006), pp. 7, 13.

60   Begum, S; Donta, B; Nair, S; Prakasam, CP. *Socio-demographic factors associated with domestic violence in urban slums, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India*. (2015), Indian Journal for Medical Research, Vol. 141, pp. 783-788, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://icmr.nic.in/ijmr/2015/june/0605.pdf; Kishor, S and Gupta K. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and International Institute for Population Sciences. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3)India, 2005-06*. (2009), pp. 108-109, Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/od57/od57.pdf.

61   Jose, M. Azim Premji University. *Reasons of runaway children. A study on "Why" children run away from home*. (2016).

THE SCOPE OF THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN SOUTH ASIA

Section 2 will analyse the various dimensions of sexual exploitation of children in South Asia. The discussion will focus in particular on two main manifestations – OCSE and SECTT, two sectors that stand at the core of current economic investment in the region. One more issue receiving special attention will be child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), a problem that South Asia substantially embodies as the top global offender. Other manifestations include child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and SEC in child labour and in the context of humanitarian crises, conflicts and environmental disasters, forms of child sexual exploitation that continue to raise concern in South Asia.

2.1 Online child sexual abuse and exploitation

The two speeds at which South Asia evolves – propelled by a thirst for modernity, on the one hand, while also remaining rooted in traditional communities, economies and worldviews, on the other – are exemplified by the way the region has embraced the global technological revolution. While visiting a remote rural or even tribal area, it is not uncommon to observe widespread use of mobile technologies, including new generation devices, among communities that may still be denied access to electricity or household sanitary latrines. As UNICEF puts it, in India, more people have a mobile phone than a toilet.[62] Where personal computers may still be beyond the reach of the poor, South Asian young people are progressively gaining access to the Web via inexpensive cell phones, the ultimate gateways to modernity. Free Wi-Fi hotspots, available in locations such as train stations, act as magnets connecting children who may not own a personal computer to the vast world of the Internet. Formerly popular cyber cafes are quickly giving way to smartphones connected to the Internet via Wi-Fi or with 2G or 3G access.[63] According to the Human Rights Commission of Maldives, a majority of children aged 14-18 access the Internet via mobile phones.[64] Young people frequently cite inclusion

---

62   UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). *Improving Children's Lives, Transforming the Future. 25 years of Child Rights in South Asia.* (2014), p. 9, Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: https://www. unicef.org/rosa/overview_9340.htm.

63   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia.* (2016), p. 19.

64   Human Rights Commission of Maldives. *Submission from the Human Rights Commission of Maldives for the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of the Republic of Maldives under the UNCRC committee pre-sessional working group meeting.* (2015), p. 6, Accessed on 5 April 2017 from: http:// hrcm.org.mv/publications/otherreports/HRCMSubmissiontoCRC27April15.pdf.

and 'connectedness' as the primary benefits of mobile phone use.[65] New Information and Communication Technologies are opening a wide window onto a global culture that may have been perceived as distant and disconnected from the South Asian ways of life only a few years back.

Although, like for the rest of the world, prevalence numbers for online child sexual exploitation in South Asia are scant, market data indicates that ICT penetration is fast, and young people are poised to drive the burgeoning South Asian ICT sector. A study conducted in Sri Lanka to analyse the online behaviour of children estimated that over half (53 percent) of young people in the age group 11-18 are online, with boys being more represented than girls, and the overall proportion rising steadily.[66] Research by Grameenphone, a primary ISP in Bangladesh, estimates that about 85 percent of the approximately 85 million Internet users are youth. A survey conducted by the Express Tribune of Pakistan revealed that 49 percent of respondents under age 18 reported spending over 5 hours per day online, a proportion that grows to nearly 60 percent for respondents in the age group 18-25.[67] India, with China and Brazil, represents one of the three markets with the highest numbers of mobile accounts among young people in the Southern hemisphere.[68] Projections by mobile operator agencies in 2015 indicated that India and China would account for most of the mobile phone growth in the Asia-Pacific region, adding a combined total of almost 900 million new smartphone connections over the following six years.[69]

Analysing Internet penetration trends in the region, the World Bank indicated that, in 2015, 26 out of every 100 people used the Internet in India, as compared to 2.4 out of 100 in 2005. The same comparison was 18 as opposed to about 6 in Pakistan, and over 14 versus 0.2 in Bangladesh over the same decade.[70] Overall, a higher proportion of people under age 25 use the Internet as compared to people over age 25.[71]

65   Samuels, C. et al. Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP) and UNICEF South Africa. *Connected Dot Com: Young people's navigation of online risks*. (2013), p. 5, Accessed on 12 April 2017 from: http://www.voicesofyouth.org/files/SAF_resources_connecteddotcom_54b567e5a298c. pdf.

66   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online*. (2015), p. iii.

67   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 46.

68   Brown, G. mobileYouth. *Young people, mobile phones and the rights of adolescent*. (n.d.), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/pdfs/Young-People-mobile-phones-and-the-rights-of-adolescents.pdf.

69   GSM Association (GSMA). *The Mobile Economy. Asia and Pacific 2015*. (2015), Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: https://www.gsmaintelligence.com/research/?file=fba9efc032061d5066b0eda76 9ad277f&download.

70   The World Bank. *Internet users (per 100 people). Overview per country*. Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.P2?end=2015&start=2005.

71   UNICEF. *Progress for Children. A report card on adolescents*. (April 2012), Number 10, p. 11, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/files/PFC2012_A_report_card_ on_adolescents.pdf.

First generation cybernauts are going to embrace new opportunities for information, communication and education virtually unknown to their parents, separated from them by a wide technological divide. Short generation time matched with the fast pace at which ICT are spreading in the region might hopefully help bridge the technological gaps between children and the adults responsible for their protection quickly enough in the coming future. In the meantime, however, South Asian children are bound to embrace the technological change with limited adult guidance and support. When used properly, the Internet and associated technologies offer boundless opportunities for empowering and even protecting the new generations. If approached with exploitative purposes, instead, the same resources can turn into destructive tools. While children's access to the Internet should be encouraged, as it contributes to fulfilling their right to information, participation and freedom of expression, such entitlements should be carefully balanced against the right to privacy and to be protected from abuse, exploitation and violence.

Among the risks that young people are likely to encounter on the Net, OCSE is a most troubling one. A UNICEF study on OCSE in five countries of the region concluded that online risks were mainly of two kinds. On the one hand, there were CSAM created, exchanged and traded by perpetrators with a clear predatory intent displaying a sexual interest in children. On the other, sexual harassment and extortion of children online, affecting mainly girls, was widespread and caused by perpetrators generally known to the victims, often peers or adults in the circle of trust. In the latter case, sexualised images of the girls, generated for private use and illicitly shared publicly on social media, have been moving from more static platforms such as Facebook, to faster moving, more private and temporal applications such as WhatsApp, WeChat or Snapchat.[72] Research in Sri Lanka highlighted that one in ten of the young people surveyed was found to have uploaded content considered inappropriate for their ages, while 41 percent had shared photos, personal information, or accepted chat requests with unknown people.[73] Young men emerged as more likely than young women to share private information online and less concerned about meeting strangers offline.[74]

While the region has yet to adopt a common definition of OCSE,[75] it is clear that the expansion of sexual exploitation to the online environment adds to concern, especially in the context of widespread poverty. As a UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre study pointed out, "children in poverty who have access to the Internet appear to be the most vulnerable to forms of online solicitation due to the economic pressure they are facing".[76] The rapid proliferation

72   UNICEF. Victims Are Not Virtual: *Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 48.

73   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online*. (2015), pp. iv and 55.

74   *Ibid*.

75   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 13.

76   UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Child Safety Online. Global Challenges and Strategies*. (2012), p. 27, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/ict_techreport3_eng.pdf.

of new ICTs may be particularly impactful on children living in one of the world's areas where child exploitation, in its various forms, has been historically high. The Internet can multiply substantially the routes through which child exploitation is possible. Accessibility, affordability and anonymity, the Internet's driving forces that can aggravate online child sexual exploitation,[77] are likely to exacerbate pre-existing conditions of social and economic inequality. They can reinforce, in particular, power imbalances between children living in conditions of marginality and adult perpetrators conveniently cloaked in a veil of impunity. As most crimes are unreported, evidence suggests that cooperation among existing structures is inadequate, thus compounding the problem of impunity and lack of information further.[78]

As the region frames stronger legislation on sexual exploitation of children, there is also a risk that exploiters turn to digital spaces where they can act more undisturbed. In the face of the ICT transformation, South Asian nations need to be aware of the nature and extent of the new technologies' downsides, including the escalation in production and demand of OCSE services as well as the nature of the sexual attitudes and behaviours of the offenders involved.[79] Perpetrators as well as victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation online can be potentially anyone. It can be the poor child enjoying inadequate protection and being bought or otherwise trapped into offensive activities, as well as a better off child enticed as a result of curiosity or naivety. It can be also the child who has gained no access to the Internet at all.

Digital penetration

South Asia's expanding regional market sees the massive opportunities that ICTs can open both in attracting investments in the ICT industry and in supporting economic growth across all sectors. Several governments have prioritised the ICT industry in national development, investing in the digital economy. The South Asian signatory nations participating in the 2016 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting, organised by the Organisation for Economic Co- operation and Development (OECD), joined the commitments made in the Ministerial Declaration on the Digital Economy ("Cancún Declaration"), pledging to enhance digital capacity in their countries.[80] The Government of India (GoI) has launched the 'Digital India' programme,[81]

77   Cooper, A. *Sexuality and the Internet: Surfing into the new millennium*. (1998), CyberPsychology & Behavior, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 187-193.

78   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 13.

79   United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. *New digital technologies produce unprecedented levels of child abuse material online*. 18 March 2016, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Childsexualexploitationonlineontherise.aspx.

80   OECD. *2016 Ministerial Meeting "The Digital Economy: Innovation, Growth and Social Prosperity". Ministerial Declaration on the Digital Economy ("Cancún Declaration")*. (21-23 June 2016), Accessed on 17 April 2017 from: https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/Digital-Economy-Ministerial-Declaration-2016.pdf.

81   Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Government of India. Digital India: About the programme. Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://digitalindia.gov.in/content/about-programme; Gartner. *Gartner Says Government IT Spending in India to Reach $7 Billion in 2016*. 16 June 2016, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/3349118.

while its mobile phone subscriber base has reached the 1 billion users mark;[82] Bangladesh has framed a Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021; Sri Lanka aims to digitise government services; Bhutan views ICT as the principal enabler for a knowledge-based society; the IT and telecom minister for Pakistan recently announced the vision of a digital Pakistan; and in Maldives, the Ooredoo's chief executive officer has committed to developing a digital economy in the country.[83]

While mobile subscribers starkly outnumber users with wired Internet access everywhere, adoption of ICT has been uneven across the region.

Table 1. Internet users and mobile subscribers

South Asia	Percentage of individuals using the Internet (2015)*	Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (2015) **
Afghanistan	8,26	61,58
Bangladesh	14,40	83,36
Bhutan	39,80	87,12
India	26	78,84
Maldives	54,56	206,66
Nepal	17,58	96,75
Pakistan	18	66,92
Sri Lanka	29,99	112,83

* Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU). United Nations. Statistics: Percentage of Individuals using the Internet.
** Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU). United Nations. Statistics: Mobile-cellular subscriptions.

82   Rai, S. *India Just Crossed 1 Billion Mobile Subscribers Milestone And The Excitement's Just Beginning*. Forbes, 6 January 2016, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.forbes.com/sites/saritharai/2016/01/06/india-just-crossed-1-billion-mobile-subscribers-milestone-and-the-excitements-just-beginning/#40dbac275ac2.

83   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online*. (2015), p. ii; UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 19; *Pakistan offers immense ICT investment opportunities*. The News International, 26 October 2016, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/159876-Pakistan-offers-immense-ICT-investment-opportunities; Export.gov. *Bangladesh - Information and Communication Technology*. Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: https://www.export.gov/article?id=Bangladesh-Information-and-Communication-Technology.

As access to the Internet is increasing, the actual impact of ICT on OCSE in the region remains quite unknown, though patchy evidence suggests that the problem exists and needs further enquiry. According to a recent study in Sri Lanka, close to half of the youth respondents (46 percent) reported connecting with a stranger online.[84] In January 2017, a 42-year-old American travelling offender was arrested in Bhubaneswar, India, on suspicion of circulating CSAM on the Internet, after having been found possessing and sharing on his laptop and iPhone nearly 30,000 files of child sexual abuse images and videos that he had collected for a long time.[85] On that occasion, the Indian police revealed that in the city of Amritsar they had found over 430,000 "files of interest", shared over the previous six months.[86]

A study in Bangladesh showed that the majority of children engaged in prostitution were also exploited for pornography; while a police report from the Maldives flagged an increase in the production of pornography linked to homemade video clips posted on the Web. In Pakistan, Internet providers estimate that over 60 percent of Internet users visit pornographic sites regularly, many of whom, including children, do so from Internet cafés and clubs.[87]

In Pakistan, more than 60 % of Internet users visit pornographic sites

more than
60%
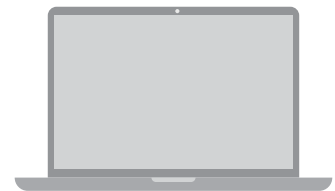
Child and parental risk perception

Although online risks are serious and on the rise, children's perception of the harm they may incur and knowledge on how to keep safe while surfing the Web are often limited. Nearly one out of four boys and one out of three girls in Sri Lanka have been found to be unaware of privacy settings available on their online accounts.[88] Young Internet users' risky behaviour online may be aggravated by limited awareness of parents, teachers, the police and policymakers of what constitutes sexual abuse in the virtual world.[89] The Internet may mislead adult educators –

84   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online*. (2015), p. 39.

85   Dash, J. *American man arrested in India for online child porn, police probe trafficking links*. Thomson Reuters Foundation, 19 January 2017, Accessed on 24 January 2017 from: http://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-children-pornography-idUSKBN1532J9.

86   Dhawan, H. *Alappuzha 4th in surfing child porn*. The Times of India, 23 January 2017, Accessed on 24 January 2017 from: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/alappuzha-4th-in-surfing-child-porn/articleshow/56725317.cms.

87   UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). *Terms of Reference, On-line Sexual Exploitation of Children – Situation Assessment Submitted by the Child Protection Section*. (2015), Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.ungm.org/UNUser/Documents/DownloadPublicDocument?docId=372395.

88   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online*. (2015), p. 53.

89   UNICEF India. *Child Online Protection in India.* (2016), Preface, Accessed on 31 March 2017 from: http://unicef.in/Uploads/Publications/Resources/pub_doc115.pdf.

affected by a deeper digital divide concerning primarily low socio-economic classes, rural communities and women –[90] into believing that relationships mediated by technology are safer than direct physical contact. In fact, to the contrary, the Net is a powerful multiplier of encounters, making possible relationships that would be unfeasible through offline contacts.[91] A Grameenphone study indicated that 70 percent of 11 to 18 year-old Bangladeshi young

In Bangladesh 70 % of young people didn't know who to go to for help when they experienced problems online.

70%

people did not know who to approach for help or guidance when they experienced problems online and did not believe their schools, teachers or parents were equipped to provide the protection online that they needed.[92]

Mobile phones, in particular, progressively accessible to all socio-economic classes and ages, have facilitated unobtrusive and unsupervised contacts between boys and girls. While this may be indirectly contributing to breaking down gender segregation, there have been risks, such as rising so-called 'love marriages' initiated through such means that have led to an increase in eloping and exposing children to early marriage, trafficking and sexual exploitation.[93]

Technological routes to sexual exploitation of children

ICT poses a range of threats to children, and help predators to abuse and exploit victims both physically and virtually. Data from Sri Lanka indicates that almost one third (27.9 percent) of young internet-users have physically met people whom they had previously contacted online, boys more so than girls.[94] Social network services are very popular with millennial audiences. While such platforms may contribute to some form of socialisation, evidence confirms that abuse and harassment are taking place via social media apps by users with fake accounts.[95]

90   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online*. (2015), p. ii; UNICEF India. *Child Online Protection in India*. (2016), pp. 22-26.

91   ECPAT International. *Power, Impunity and Anonymity. Understanding the Forces Driving the Demand for Sexual Exploitation of Children*. (2016), p. 48, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/PowerImpunityandAnonymity.pdf.

92   Grameenphone. *Parents need to be more open and aware regarding online behavior of the youth*. 28 November 2015, Accessed on 4 April 2017 from: https://www.grameenphone.com/about/media-center/press-release/parents-need-be-more-open-and-aware-regarding-online-behavior-youth.

93   Perczynska, O. *Child marriage in Nepal: What do you do when it's by choice?*. Girls Not Brides, 28 February 2014, Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-nepal-choice/.

94   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online*. (2015), p. 52.

95   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 13.

In some parts of the region, children as young as 8 or 9 create Facebook accounts, while older children use Facebook as a common means for dating, an indication that meeting online contacts offline is becoming a practice.[96]

Prostitution and trafficking – an area requiring special attention in South Asia is online facilitation of offline child sexual exploitation, implying the use of the Internet to support child trafficking, child marriage or the exploitation of children in prostitution.[97] The Internet and mobile phones can be used to support prostitution activities, connecting pimps, clients and victims more efficiently. Cell phones and ICT in general allow pimps to manage the sex business beyond traditional brothels as some of these ancient South Asian institutions have been closing down. ICT can also help traffickers in both contacting potential victims and connecting with criminal networks. More discreet online or telephonic contact methods link predators with children who are hidden in apartments and hotels located outside red-light areas, thus minimising the risk of being caught and prosecuted.[98]

Both local and travelling child sex offenders (TCSO) use ICT to seek out children. They rely on technology to network among themselves, share information about locations where children may be available, either in the country where they reside or abroad, and organise local or cross-border criminal activity. Mobile phones offer direct channels for adults interested in surreptitiously approaching young victims, eluding the attention of families and communities.

Grooming – Online platforms are spaces that offenders can infiltrate to establish contact with children. Predators can 'groom' children online, by forming relationships with them and pretending to be their friend. 'Groomers' can pursue sexual solicitation online by using chatrooms focussed around young people's interests, personal websites, such as social networking sites, or e-mail and Skype communication tools. The abuse can subsequently take place through an online or an offline interaction – or both. Cases have been reported in the South Asian travel and tourism markets of preferential child sex offenders who groom children online and continue acting offline, often returning to the same child over a period of time to gain his or her trust by giving gifts and offering support.[99]

---

96   *Ibid.*, p. 46.
97   *Ibid.*, p. 46.
98   Harris, G. *Cellphones Reshape Prostitution in India, and Complicate Efforts to Prevent AIDS*. The New York Times, 24 November 2012, Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/25/world/asia/indian-prostitutes-new-autonomy-imperils-aids-fight.html.
99   Equations and Vikas Samvad. *Exploitation of Children in Tourism. Child Sexual Abuse & Child Labour in Tourism in Madhya Pradesh.* (2013), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.equitabletourism.org/files/fileDocuments2875_uid24.pdf.

Live streaming of child sexual abuse– Another online offence relates to live-distant child abuse (LDCA) and made-to-order child sexual abuse images, which enable the streaming of live images and videos, which are exploited by offenders with a sexual interest in children. Although live-distant child abuse has traditionally concentrated in South-East Asia, in particular in the Philippines, Europol has warned that it is spreading in other countries. South Asia should remain watchful of this risk, especially among its poor communities.[100]

Child sexual abuse material – Child sexual abuse material (CSAM) (the term that has replaced 'child pornography')[101] includes a wide range of items spanning from still images and videos to written stories, drawings, manga and morphed images. CSAM can be also self-produced, more often by peers or potential victims themselves. New technological options, such as Cloud storing facilities and the Darknet, not only mean constant availability of new products, but also more effective escape routes to act with impunity.[102] Even when victims are successfully rescued and protected from further abusive acts, their victimisation is repeated by the Internet's unprecedented capacity of cloning the abuse technologically. Technological investments underway in the region to increase the broadband speed and link to larger and cheaper storing capacities have been enabling the transfer of larger files, such as video and audio materials. CSAM emerges as an area of special concern in South Asia, where evidence suggests that distribution of photos – some of them doctored – is widespread and used for extortion or blackmail.[103]

While pornography in the region continues to be accessed through traditional channels – such as in mini-cinema houses growing clandestinely throughout Pakistan to cater to both child and adult viewers of pornographic films, also involving child sexual exploitation – the Web is favouring a proliferation of pornographic images in new ways. Research by the Government of Bhutan estimates that over 20 percent of children, mainly boys, are exposed to pornography either in their or someone else's home, with more accessing it at school and in public places.[104]

100   Europol. *The Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2016*. (2016), p. 26, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/internet-organised-crime-threat-assessment-iocta-2016.

101   ECPAT International prefers the terms 'child sexual abuse material (CSAM)' and 'child sexual exploitation material (CSEM), but in a legal context still uses 'child pornography' in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children. *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg 28 January 2016*. (2016), Accessed on 15 April 2017 from: http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/docpdf/terminologyguidelines.pdf.

102   Europol. *The Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2016*. (2016), pp. 25-26.

103   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 13.

104   National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. *Study on violence against children in Bhutan*. (2016), pp. 20-21.

The issue of CSAM has continued to trouble both governments and civil society organisations as the production of illegal materials has been spreading in South Asia, as in the rest of the world. Considered the worst sexual abuse scandal that ever occurred in Pakistan, the Kasur child sexual abuse case rocked the country when a series of offences involving children, mostly boys, took place in Hussain Khan Wala village in Kasur District, Punjab, during the first 6 months of 2015, and were further linked to the production of hundreds of video clips showing children performing forced sex acts. As many as 577 cases were reported, while a large number remained unreported. Parents and residents of the village organised street protests and the National Commission for Human Rights requested the Pakistan Federal Government to probe into the facts. In October 2015, the Commission issued a report documenting the outcome of its fact-finding mission and unveiling that children had been sexually abused 'on a large scale' since 2010.[105] Following such shocking events, further cases of child sexual abuse were reported during the years 2015 and 2016, where men kidnapped and raped boy children, linking the abusive acts to video production and blackmail of the families of the victims.[106] Similarly, in Bangladesh, INTERPOL uncovered a crime ring active for at least 10 years that traded a large collection of CSAM online. The majority of the images involved boys presumably living or working on the streets.[107]

Spreading CSAM with the facilitation of the Internet has made it possible not only for preferential child sex offenders but also just about anybody connected online to access the material. The pervasiveness of non-commercial peer-to-peer networks, mobile phones and other technologies is facilitating the circulation of self-produced child abuse material by peers and in other non-commercial forms, at no cost to users.[108] Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention defines corruption of children situations as those in which adults or other children expose a child victim to pornography online, a problem that has been found to be especially pronounced in South Asia.[109]

---

105   National Commission for Human Rights, Government of Pakistan. *The Kasur Incident of Child Abuse, Fact Finding Report*. (n.d.); Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. *NCHR report on Kasur child abuse*. 14 October 2015, Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: http://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/nchr-report-on-kasur-child-abuse/.

106   *More child abuse cases surface in Pakistan*. ZeeNews, 14 August 2015, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/more-child-abuse-cases-surface-in pakistan_1646857.html; Variyar, M. *Another child rape, pornography scandal rocks Pakistan*. International Business Times, 11 May 2016, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://www.ibtimes.co.in/another-child-rape-pornography-scandal-rocks-pakistan-678268.

107   INTERPOL. *Child Abuse Ring Identified Through an International Collaboration via INTERPOL*. 18 June 2014, Accessed on 14 April 2017 from: https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2014/N2014-114.

108   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia*. (2016).

109   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), p. 13.

A fundamental challenge in developing effective responses to CSAM in South Asia stems from the fact that definitions of child sexual abuse material vary substantially from country to country. Legislation often refers to immoral depictions, thus stressing socio-cultural and religious beliefs over a human rights-oriented interpretation of the issue. ECPAT International has been advocating in favour of adopting a child-safe definition encompassing all forms of visual representations and audio-visual recordings depicting children.[110]

Blackmail though sexual images – Special attention has been drawn in South Asia to sexual extortion of children, involving one child voluntarily sharing a nude or sexualised photo with another child or an adult, and then being blackmailed as a result.[111] Self-generated erotic or pornographic images or videos may be used for 'sexting', the act of sending, receiving or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs or images through mobile phones and other digital devices, as well as for 'sexual extortion', i.e. a form of blackmail in which sexual images are used to extort sexual or other favours from the victim. A news report from the Maldives indicated that in July 2015, the police arrested the 15 members of a child sexual exploitation ring operating in Fuvahmulah and other islands. Two girls aged 14 and 16 were made to use drugs and filmed naked. The offenders subsequently threatened to circulate the videos and blackmailed the victims.[112] In the Maldives and Sri Lanka, girls reportedly committed suicide following experiences of sexual extortion, while in Bangladesh, girls had been forced to change schools or leave their communities for the same reason.[113]

Intimate images and footage extorted by online child sex offenders can be used to shame or blackmail the victim into continued involvement.[114] In shame cultures like those prevalent in South Asia, where the perception of honour depends on the community's judgement, blackmailing children and their families through sexual extortion may result in entrapping a child and ruining her reputation, thus jeopardising opportunities for professional development, education or marriage. Child victims and their families seldom report incidents of online sexual exploitation to avoid not only social stigma, but also further victimisation by police, effectively granting impunity to offenders.

110   Uddin, J; Hossain, MZ; Mahbub, F. *Vulnerability to Child Pornography and Loopholes in Legislative Frameworks in South Asia.* (2012), ASA University Review, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 197-207, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.asaub.edu.bd/data/asaubreview/v6n2sl18.pdf.
111   UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia.* (2016), p. 13.
112   *Minor arrested in the Fuvahmulah child prostitution.* Minivan News, 14 July 2015, Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: http://minivannewsarchive.com/news-in-brief/minor-arrested-in-the-fuvahmulah-child-prostitution-case-100946.
113   Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. *Study on Digital landscape: The potential risks to children who are online.* (2015); UNICEF. Victims *Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia.* (2016), p. 33.
114   UN Human Rights Council. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.* (2014), Twenty-eighth session, UN Doc A/HRC/28/56, p. 11, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A_HRC_28_56_ENG.doc; ECPAT International. *Power, Impunity and Anonymity. Understanding the Forces Driving the Demand for Sexual Exploitation of Children.* (2016), p. 49.

In addition to the harmful forms of online behaviour cited above, a study on India includes cyber extremism, namely ideological indoctrination and recruitment, threats of extreme violence carried out online, which may radicalise young people and induce them to various forms of violence.[115].

2.2 The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism

Offenders on the move
The recently released ECPAT Global study on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT), a milestone in a fairly under-researched field, singles out three characteristics that most aggravate children's vulnerability and facilitate their exploitation in the context of SECTT: power imbalances between travelling child sex offenders (TCSO) and victims, the huge expansion of the global travel and tourism sector, and gaps and conflicts in laws and law enforcement.[116] South Asia emerges as an area exposed to the entire range of risks. Although not nearly as frequented as neighbouring South East Asian destinations, tourist sites in South Asia are rising in popularity, while the liberal economy model progressively adopted by the South Asian tourism market is leading to an increase in business travel volume. Rising incomes, plummeting costs of travel and an expanding middle class jointly contribute to the growth of the travel and tourism industry in the region. The penetration of the Internet facilitates the promotion of travel packages on offer.[117] Further, economic structural reforms and growing urbanisation have increased free mobility of capital and labour, as free trade has been encouraged by policy facilitating crossing both national and state borders. Not only tourists but also businesspeople and skilled and unskilled workers travel within and across countries, often relying on new technologies. Increased mobility offers a favourable ground for sex offenders on the move.

A diversification in the supply of travel and tourism options satisfies a wide-ranging demand spanning from luxury resorts to adventure travel, eco-villages and home-stays where consumers can share accommodation with families and their children. While an expansion of the global and regional travel and tourism markets are going to contribute to the economic growth of South Asian countries, misconduct by offenders on the move is likely to worsen the predicament of vulnerable groups rather than fostering social development.

115   UNICEF India. Child Online Protection in India. (2016), pp. 40-41.
116   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. (2016), p. 49.
117   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p.19.

Latest data by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates that, as of 2015, nearly 18.3 million international tourists visited the South Asia region, accounting for a market share of 1.5 percent. India alone received over 8 million international visitors over the same year.[118] With a growth rate of the arrival of international tourists at 7 percent in 2014 and 4 percent in 2015 (though arrivals declined in Nepal following the April 2015 earthquake), tourism represents a primary income generator in the region.[119]

Table 2. International tourist arrivals - South Asia (million)

Year	Arrivals
2010	12.1
2011	13.5
2012	14.1
2013	15.5
2014	17.5
2015	18.3

Data sourced from UNWTO, World Tourism Highlights 2014, p. 4, http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416226; UNWTO, World Tourism Highlights 2016, p. 4, http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284418145. Note: UNWTO definition of South Asia includes Iran in addition to the eight SAARC countries.

In addition to a rising trend in international tourist arrivals, UNWTO reports also confirm that there has been a steady increase in domestic travellers.[120] In fact, it is interesting to note that, while international tourism is expanding, most tourists visit destinations within their own region.[121]

---

118   World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2016. (2016), p.9,Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.e-unwto.org/doipdf/10.18111/9789284418145. Note that, in WTO report, the South Asia region includes also Iran.

119   World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2015. (2015), p.7,Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.e-unwto.org/doipdf/10.18111/9789284416899; World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2016. (2016), p.7.

120   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 11.

121   World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2016. (2016), p. 12.

Understanding the evolution of SECTT in the region

The current and forecasted exponential growth in tourist arrivals is not equal across the South Asian countries. However, an increasingly globalised travel culture is spreading practices and behaviours whose positive as well as negative effects are likely to bring about profound cultural and social changes in the region as a whole. An adverse impact of the expansion of the travel and tourism sector in South Asia is the threat that local and foreign travelling child sex offenders may pose to children. While the travel and tourism sector cannot be blamed for sexual exploitation of children, there is much that it can do to prevent harm. SECTT is typically interlinked with other forms of sexual exploitation of children. Poverty and inequalities, social and cultural disparities, limited education and livelihood opportunities, matched with weak child protection systems, are among the most common determinants of SECTT.

SECTT can be defined as "the sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children".[122] Travelling predators may be preferential child sex offenders or situational child sex offenders. The former group normally travels to a given destination with the main purpose of seeking sexual contact with children residing there, while the latter category engages abusively with children

In South Asia the travel and tourism industry is projected to grow at a rate of 6.6 % per year.

per year
6.6%

as a result of opportunities. Understanding behavioural patterns by offenders on the move is particularly relevant in South Asia where the travel and tourism industry is projected to grow at a rate of 6.6 percent per year, to the point that, by 2030, international tourist arrivals are predicted to reach a total of 36 million.[123]
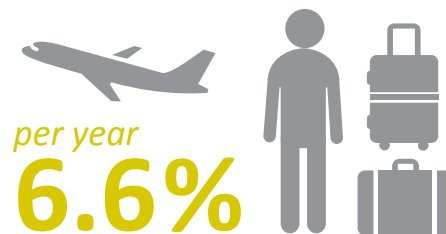
The UNWTO data reported above challenges a perception still prevailing in the region according to which SECTT is caused primarily by foreign child sex offenders. South Asia needs to quickly realise that the multiplication of travel options and vacation packages may imply increasing threats for children also by local travelling child sex offenders.[124] While traditional destinations for foreign child sex offenders, such as those in neighbouring South East Asian countries, begin to tighten up legal frameworks and create child protection mechanisms, South Asia is just beginning to acknowledge and address SECTT. Sri Lanka may be regarded as an exception

122   ECPAT International. Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions and Answers. (2008), p. 6, Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf.
123   World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2016. (2016), p. 15.
124   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 11.

in the region, with both a longer history of SECTT, mainly stemming from foreign child sex offenders, and positive efforts to combat the problem. Although solid data is not available, anecdotal evidence suggests that SECTT has been moving beyond traditional tourist locations and started emerging in most of the countries in the region, especially India and Nepal.[125]

How South Asian children are harmed by SECTT
There are several ways by which SECTT is harmful to South Asia and its communities. The region has experienced a large influx of preferential offenders. Their patterns are linked to grooming and to the likely use of ICT channels. Though data on the relationship between traditional and technology-facilitated SEC is scant, the use of communication technology tools plays a growing role in the realm of travel and tourism in a host of non-traditional modes, such as through online grooming or sexting. Child sex offenders can now act either online or offline, and possibly, often, in both environments. Travelling predators use the Internet to gather information about locations where vulnerable children can be found. In addition, individuals are increasingly relying on ICT to make direct contact with children whom they seek to abuse, also helped by offender communities that share information on less risky destinations for SECTT. Technology further contributes to making law enforcement more challenging, thus instilling a sense of impunity in travelling child sex offenders.

A trend recently recorded relates to individuals who sexually abuse children in the context of travel and tourism and further spread material produced from the abuse in locations other than their place of residence.[126] Furthermore, there have been cases of bride trafficking, including reports indicating that the malpractice of 'one-month brides' continues to be resorted to by tourists and travellers, normally adult males who engage in some sort of union with girls, exploit them during occasional visits and return to their place of residence where they may have a family of their own.[127]

Among the preferential offenders, cases have also been reported of individuals with paedophilic disorder, although they may not necessarily account for the main share of this offending group. While the movements of preferential offenders must be constantly monitored by law enforcement authorities, as crimes may be repeated, the Global Study underscores that the majority of the perpetrators are situational offenders, who do not even think of sexually exploiting a child until given the opportunity to do so while travelling for tourism, business or other reasons.[128]

---

125 Ibid., p. 11.
126 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 18.
127 Ibid., p. 29.
128 Ibid., p. 15.

In South Asia, SECTT is often linked with child labour, especially exploitation in the context of the transport and hospitality industries. In the transport sector, boys helping truck drivers engaged in long, lonely hauls away from home may also be sexually assaulted by their employers. [129] In the hospitality sector, young people who work in small hotels, dhabas (roadside restaurants), tea stalls, souvenir shops and other setups serving the needs of travellers along highways, at tourist locations or at religious sites interact with a multitude of strangers, some with possible ill intentions. The same risks are run also by children begging or offering their services as improvised guides at tourist sites. Pressure to earn some money for themselves and their families may encourage young people to be photographed for illicit purposes and accept other forms of sexual solicitation by the travellers and tourists they come in contact with.[130]

Hence, the ways by which children can be accessed are many in the context of SECTT. Travelling child sex offenders can reach their victims not only in brothels and at entertainment venues, but also in more elusive locations, such on the streets and in public places, in childcare and shelter homes, and at workplaces, more easily when this is linked with the tourism and travel industry. ICT and home-based hospitality is making it possible to approach children even on the safe grounds of their families and communities.

Among the various options available, there is finally so-called *voluntourism*, a recent opportunity offered to tourists who wish to volunteer with social welfare projects, normally abroad. Such programmes may unintentionally provide a channel for transnational child sex offenders to infiltrate orphanages or childcare shelters for deprived children, managed often by voluntary organisations in poor nations. A similar problem stems from pseudo-care professionals who seek employment in orphanage-work or teaching as a device for approaching children with abusive intents. Although South Asia has begun to develop minimum standards of care and protection as well as monitoring requirements for child protection organisations and shelter homes, implementation and supervision are still weak and awareness of specific threats, such as those relating to SECTT, often lacking. In fact, child organisations may involve foreign volunteers as a way to attract donor support and allow them to spend time unsupervised with children. It is a sad reality that a majority of children living in orphanages are not orphans. In extreme cases, orphanages are set up as moneymaking ventures rather than genuine services for the care of parentless children.[131]

129   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 10.
130   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016).
131   Ibid. pp.12, 38, 39, 40.

SECTT trends in the region

The expansion of the travel and tourism industry has taken place at different speeds and with varying implications in each country of the region.

Sri Lanka – Since the 1980s, when Sri Lanka became an internationally renowned destination for SECTT outside better-known South East Asian hotspots, the country has continued to be affected by this issue.[132] In 2011, the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) warned of a rise in the sexual exploitation of children linked to a rapid growth in the tourism sector. A UNICEF study on sexual exploitation of boys in South Asia indicated that SECTT affected more boys than girls in Sri Lanka,

20 % of Sri Lankan boys in the sex industry say they are compelled to work for economic reasons

20%

especially with regard to foreign tourism.[133] Female tourists have been found to engage in sex tourism with local 'beach boys', mainly along the Western and Southwestern coasts.[134] Evidence suggests that rather than being forcefully coerced into sexual contact, boys normally display a high degree of 'consent' supported by the complicity of their families. Studies have estimated that, among the reasons for entering the sex industry, about 20 percent of boys have been compelled by economic reasons, whereas over one-third have been influenced by peers or the social environment.[135]

Nepal – In Nepal, the tourism industry has been growing since the end of the Maoist insurgency civil war in 2006, a positive economic trend that has been accompanied, however, by a rise in sexual exploitation.[136] Both boys and girls are often in contact with travellers in touristy Nepal. Children may accompany tourists on trekking tours, serve travellers in hotels and restaurants, or even receive some form of help from visitors.

132 Squire, J and Wijeratne, S. Terre des Hommes Foundation. Sri Lanka Research Report. The Sexual Abuse, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children in Sri Lanka. (2008), p. 8, Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/trafficking_report_srilanka_17_12_08.pdf.

133 Frederick, J. UNICEF. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia. A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses. Innocenti Working Paper. (2010), pp. 126, 128.

134 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. (2016), p. 40.

135 Frederick, J. UNICEF. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia. A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses. Innocenti Working Paper. (2010), pp. 127, 131.

136 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 30.

The Country has witnessed a surge in the establishment of entertainment venues, where various sexual services are made available. The massage parlours and 'dance bars' mushrooming in the popular Thamel district of Kathmandu, among other places, attract poor women and girls from the rural areas, often belonging to minority groups.[137] While the sexual exploitation of children is engaged in by both tourists and locals, Nepali nationals have been identified as holding main responsibility for sexual abuse and exploitation of children in institutionalised settings.[138]

India – Despite being a source of and destination for sex tourism, India has not developed substantial measures to reduce the participation of its nationals in SECTT.[139] The Government of India has been a major promoter of the tourism sector in the country through domestic and international campaigns aiming to attract visitors. Commercial efforts, however, have not been accompanied by policies to encourage an ecologically and socially responsible model in public and private business ventures. Exemplary of the persistent neglect of issues around sexual abuse of children in travel and tourism is the way one of the major heritage sites in the country, Khajuraho, has been positioned as an erotic destination, thus attracting the interest of tourists seeking opportunities for commercial sex.

While India's focus has been rather on addressing the problem of foreign 'paedophiles', the serious cases of local and regional offenders have not yet received the necessary attention.[140] UNODC has reported that demand generated by the tourism industry aggravates human trafficking in Goa.[141] The expanding Indian entertainment sector, linked also to travel and tourism, risks diversifying SECTT, making young people available for sexual services in beauty parlours, spas, clubs and online.[142]

137 Frederick, J; Basnyat, M.; Aguettant, JL. Terre des Hommes Foundation. Trafficking and Exploitation in the Entertainment and Sex Industries in Nepal: A Handbook for Decision-Makers. (2010), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/handbook. pdf.
138 Terre des Hommes Foundation and UNICEF. Adopting the Rights of the Child. A Study on Intercountry Adoption and its Influence on Child Protection in Nepal. (2008), Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/1661.pdf.
139 United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), p. 202, Accessed on 9 January 2017 from: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf.
140 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 27.
141 Tourism Boosts Human Trafficking in Goa. The Times of India, 3 August 2013, Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/Tourism-boosts-human-trafficking-in- Goa/articleshow/21563733.cms.
142 Tourism Boosts Human Trafficking in Goa. The Times of India, 3 August 2013.

Bangladesh – As with most of the region, Bangladesh lacks official studies on SECTT. In 2011, ECPAT International highlighted some unofficial reports of boys being sexually exploited at Cox's Bazar, a seaside resort popular among domestic tourists.[143] Not a standard tourist destination, Bangladesh has witnessed a constant drop in the number of international tourists over the past five years,[144] although the country displays high indicators of domestic travelling and urbanisation. There are indications that the sex industry is expanding beyond traditional brothel-based establishments - a trend that requires close monitoring - also in view of the steady growth in the domestic travel sector, an added risk factor in the expansion of the sex market.[145]

Pakistan – While no research is available on SECTT in Pakistan, cases have been reported of boys procuring prostitutes or selling sex to local tourists and pilgrims at mazaars (holy shrines).[146] The Baba Shah Jamal shrine in Lahore, a popular destination for devotees from around the country, has been known all along for being a hotspot for young sex workers.[147] Some evidence shows that mafia gangs dealing in drugs and prostitution facilitate transactions between men and the boys frequenting the shrines.[148]

Afghanistan – Afghanistan has developed no significant research studies or datasets on travel and tourism. While some initial reports have been prepared on sexual exploitation of children, specific attention to SECTT is still broadly lacking.[149] Reports have been recording involvement by contractors of private security firms funded by the U.S. government in sexual exploitation of boys, the so-called bacha bazi, according to a cultural practice whereby men use young boys for social and sexual entertainment.[150]

143   ECPAT International. Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Bangladesh. (2011), p. 25, Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Pdf/A4A_II/A4A_V2_SA_BANGLADESH.pdf.
144   World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2016. (2016), p. 9.
145   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), pp. 25-26.
146   Frederick, J. UNICEF. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia. A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses. Innocenti Working Paper. (2010).
147   Working Group Against Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation and Save the Children Sweden. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. A Situational Analysis of Pakistan. (2005), p. 33, Accessed on 13 December 2016, from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/1359.pdf.
148   ECPAT International. Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Pakistan. (2011), p. 12, Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp- content/uploads/legacy/A4A_V2_SA_PAKISTAN.pdf.
149   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 25.
150   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 37.

Bhutan – Bhutan continues to promote sustainable tourism to mitigate the adverse impact of mass tourism on the Bhutanese culture and environment. SEC-related data is very poor for the country, including with regard to travel and tourism.[151]

Maldives – In the Maldives, a country investing primarily in luxury-tourism, there are no studies on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and reported cases are few.[152] Although the risk may seem minimal at present, conditions in the Maldives may worsen as a result of a new policy opening inhabited islands to middle- to low-end tourism.[153]

2.3 Sexual violence in child, early and forced marriage

মা আমি তোমার সব ঋন শোধ করলাম

"Mother, I am paying all my debts back to you."
Says ceremonially a Bengali bride throwing a handful of rice
over her shoulder into her mother's lap as she leaves her family
forever to join her husband's home on her wedding day.

আমি তোমার জন্য দাসী আনতে যাচ্ছি

"Mother, I am going to bring a slave for you."
Says ceremonially a Bengali bridegroom
as he leaves his parental home to celebrate his wedding
and return with his

South Asia has long been in the eye of the international community for being the primary contributor to a phenomenon regarded as a significant hindrance to human and social development globally – child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), namely a marriage or an informal union in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years.[154] Child marriage is a form of violence against children as well as a manifestation of gender discrimination that disproportionally affects girl children, with

More than 700 million women alive today were married before they turned 18

700+
million women

---

151   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 26.
152   Ibid., p. 28.
153   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 37.
154   United Nations Human Rights Council. Preventing and Eliminating Child, Early and Forced Marriage, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014), UN Doc. A/HRC/26/22., p. 3, Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session26/Documents/A-HRC-26- 22_en.doc.

over four girls being married underage as compared to one boy worldwide.[155] Existing UNICEF estimates place at over 700 million the number of women alive today who were married before they turned 18. More than one third of them (about 250 million) entered into a union before age 15. If the practice of child marriage continues at the current levels, the total number of women married as children globally will grow to about 950 million by 2030, and nearly 1.2 billion by 2050.[156]

South Asia accounts for the lion's share of the CEFM problem in the world, India alone representing one third of the global total.[157] Almost half (45 percent) of all girls in South Asia marry before their 18th birthday, with the region continuing to display the highest rates of child marriage in the world.[158] Nearly one in five girls (17 percent) are married before the age of 15. Child marriage has been declining from 63 percent in 1985, to 45 percent in 2010, a trend more marked for girls under 15 (from 32 percent in 1985, to 17 percent in 2010). According to UNICEF projections, if current trends continue unchanged in the region, around one in four women aged 20-24 will have married as a child by 2050. If, instead, progress is accelerated according to UNICEF's plans, only one girl in six will be a child bride in 2050 (as compared to nearly one in two at present).[159] With such trends, South Asia has a primary role to play in containing the global CEFM threat.

Table 3. Child marrige in South Asia

Percentage of women 20–24 years old who were first married or in union before they were 15 years old, and percentage of women 20-24 years old who were first married or in union before they were 18 years old (2005-2013)

COUNTRIES	Married by 15	Married by 18
Afghanistan	15	40
Bangladesh	29	65
Bhutan	6	26
India	18	47
Maldives	0	4
Nepal	10	41
Pakistan	3	21
Sri Lanka	2	12

155   UNICEF. Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects. (2014), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf.
156   Ibid.
157   Ibid.
158   45 percent of all women aged 20-24 reported being married before the age of 18 in South Asia. UNICEF. 2015 Progress Report. Six Headline Results for Children in South Asia, End Child Marriage. (2015), p. 9, Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/rosa/4-PR-childmarriage.pdf.
159   Ibid., pp. 9-10.

United Nations Children's Fund, 2015, "The State of the World's Children Reimagine the future: Innovation for every child,"www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2015_Summary_and_Tables.pdf.[160]

CEFM as a channel to and a form of sexual abuse and exploitation of children
Attention to the problem of child marriage in South Asia has substantially grown in recent times, helping intensify research and policy around this issue. While concern has tended to focus primarily on issues around the violation of sexual and reproductive rights experienced by underage child brides and mothers, the recognition for the violation of the entire range of child rights has been more limited, in particular with regard to the impact of premature unions on sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

In a culture where the girl child may still be perceived as a burden, keeping a daughter in school may be regarded as an unnecessary luxury considering that a bride is expected to ultimately contribute to another household and the cost of a dowry is directly proportional to the level of education attainment. As a daughter achieves sexual maturity and is withdrawn from school, staying unsupervised at home exposes her to sexual solicitations from and transgressions by boys and men in the community and her own family. A conceptual framework developed by ECPAT International to analyse the various levels at which child marriage interfaces with sexual abuse and exploitation of children is helpful in understanding how South Asian child brides are victims of SEC in the context of their premature unions.[161] There are three levels at which such violations take place.

Sexual Exploitation of Children in Child Marriage

Child marriage as a channel to sexual abuse and exploitation of children, also for commercial purposes → **Child marriage as a form of sexual abuse and exploitation of children** → **Child marriage as a form of commercial and economic sexual abuse and exploitation of children**

160 Recent official estimates emerging from the National Family Health Survey-4 2015-16 released by Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare show a more positive picture than the one reflected in UNICEF data and a net improvement in the Country. However, while trends on the national average of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 18 appear to have decreased from about 37 percent to nearly 23 percent over the past decade (NFHS-3 2005-06; NFHS-4 2015-16), in endemic areas such as rural Behar or Rajasthan prevalence emerges still as being around 40 percent. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Government of India. National Family Health Survey-4 2015 -16. (2016), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet_NFHS-4.shtml.
161 ECPAT International. Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2015), p. 35..

Child marriage as a channel to sexual abuse and exploitation of children
Typically, in South Asia, CEFM acts as a major channel to trafficking for sexual exploitation. The inadequately valued girl child may be an easy target for traffickers seeking to lure poor parents with false promises of dowry-free marriage arrangements.[162] An ECPAT International study found that, in Bangladesh, relatives, persons known to the family, or strangers use deceitful marriages or job offers to entice children into highly exploitative occupations, such as prostitution, pornography and sex tourism.[163] According to SANLAAP, an Indian NGO and ECPAT network member, child marriage is one of the most common methods used to procure young girls for prostitution in South Asia.[164] Similar findings have emerged from Nepal, where incidences have been recorded of traffickers carrying fake marriage certificates to safely cross the national border and lure their 'newly-wed wives' into travelling to India on the pretext of a honeymoon.[165] A child victim can be repeatedly traded on the sex market, or just sold to another husband, as it may be the in the context of fake or temporary child marriages.[166] Research from Nepal suggests one more way by which marriage is linked to trafficking, underscoring that marriage has been found to be one of the main livelihood strategies for trafficked returnees.[167]

Death, divorce or desertion by husbands may act as another route for child marriage to lead to sexual exploitation. A study highlighted that two thirds of the married girls and women engaged in prostitution in Nepal are mothers, many of whom cited looking after their children as the main reason for working in the sex trade following their husbands' desertion.[168]

Child marriage as an inherent form of sexual abuse and exploitation of children
In addition to being a channel to sexual exploitation, CEFM in the context of the region frequently represents a form of sexual abuse and exploitation of children in itself,[169] as it inherently exposes disempowered young girls to abusive power dynamics and violence,

162 Ibid., p. 42.
163 ECPAT International. Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Bangladesh. (2011), p.12
164 ECPAT International. Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Nepal. (2011), p. 13, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Pdf/A4A_II/A4A_V2_SA_NEPAL.pdf.
165 CWIN and ECPAT Luxembourg. Preparatory Study for Situational Analysis of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Nepal. A Preliminary Report January 2015. (2015), p. 73, Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: http://ecpat.lu/sites/default/files/resources/Nepal_Preparatory_Study_CSEC.pdf. The study was conducted during the November 2013 to February 2014 period.
166 ECPAT International. Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2015), p. 44.
167 Goździak, EM. Institute for the Study of International Migration Georgetown University. Trafficking Survivors Return Home: Case Study of Nepal. (2017), Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://www.academia.edu/27261889/Trafficking_Survivors_Return_Home_Case_Study_of_Nepal.
168 Frederick, J; Basnyat, M.; Aguettant, JL. Terre des Hommes Foundation. Trafficking and Exploitation in the Entertainment and Sex Industries in Nepal: A Handbook for Decision-Makers. (2010), p. 38.
169 ECPAT International. Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2015), p. 46.

especially by intimate partners.[170] While husbands are the primary perpetrators of intimate partner violence, which includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, others may include fathers-in-law, brothers-in-law and other male family members.[171]

Forced sexual activity at a young age and non-consensual sex, leading to unplanned, high-risk and multiple pregnancies, encompass a continuum of violations of girls' sexual, health and protection rights.[172] One in 14 births to young mothers in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan results in the death of an infant within the first year of life.[173] Given that the age difference between spouses tends to be wider in early marriages and power imbalance among spouses of greater magnitude, girls are more vulnerable to contracting life-threatening diseases, as older men are more prone to suffering from STDs and girls less capable of negotiating for their own health.[174] In addition to harm in the sphere of reproductive and sexual health, sexual violence stemming from CEFM affects also the child's mental health, with married girls showing signs symptomatic of child sexual abuse and posttraumatic stress.[175]

Child marriage as an inherent form of commercial and economic sexual abuse and exploitation of children

Finally, child marriage in South Asia often turns into a form of commercial and economic sexual abuse and exploitation of children in itself when the sexual violence that the child suffers in the context of marriage is further accompanied by an exchange of money or other economic benefits.[176] The dowry system is a widespread, traditional harmful practice in the region, linking marriage to the payment of a bride price from the bride's family to the family of the bridegroom. The payment of the dowry often correlates with the bride's age at marriage, an incentive to lower the age of the bride further. The payment of a dowry, which may be regarded as a form of commodification of marriage and sale of children, is common across the region where children are used as chattel or currency to settle family debts or disputes.[177]

170 World Health Organization (WHO) and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women: Taking Action and Generating Evidence. (2010), p. 20, Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet_ NFHS- 4.shtml.

171 Girls Not Brides. Girls' Safety. Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://rchiips.org/nfhs/ factsheet_NFHS-4.shtml.

172 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Marrying Too Young. End Child Marriage. (2012), pp. 6, 11, Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet_NFHS-4.shtml.

173 Ghosh, P. Babies in Danger: Child Marriages Linked to High Infant Mortality Rates Across South Asia. International Business Times, 29 October 2013, Accessed on 9 April 2017 from: http://www. ibtimes.com/babies-danger-child-marriages-linked-high-infant-mortality-rates-across-south- asia-1444674.

174 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 19.

175 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). Child Marriage and Domestic Violence. (2007), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet_NFHS-4.shtml.

176 ECPAT International. Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2015), p. 54.

177 Human Rights Council. United Nations. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid. 2013, UN Doc. A/HRC/25/48, para. 26.

The practice of vani in Pakistan requires giving away a girl in marriage to the relatives of murder victims to compensate for a crime committed, or to put an end to feuds between families or clans.[178]

Child and early marriage, recognised by international law as a form of forced marriage, potentially amounts to slavery, a condition that inhibits the child's ability to refuse, end or leave the union, deprives her of freedom of choice regarding personal matters and subjects her to rape, beatings or murder, denying recourse to law or society for protection or redress.[179] In early marriage, the child potentially experiences a status of bonded labour, being normally involved in unpaid domestic and manual work in her husband's household, and under coercion by in-laws and other family members.

Sexual norms and practices

The socialisation of South Asian girls, moulded on sexual norms of virginity and chastity, acts as a powerful trigger in driving daughters into marriage as a safeguard to protect what is viewed to be the honour of the girl and the family. Biases against girl children have boomeranged by making brides a progressively scarcer asset. Such gender paradox is dramatically exemplified by the practice of Atta Satta, which, in Rajasthan, assures families a bride by exchanging a daughter for a daughter-in-law.[180] The desperate search for wives by the same communities that jeopardise the survival of the girl child has resulted in trafficking brides from the impoverished Indian states of Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam and West Bengal to states with highly imbalanced child sex ratios, such as Haryana and Punjab.[181] Overall, traditional harmful practices perpetuate gender violence, as in the case of 'night hunting', a traditional practice first intended for courtship, involving a male sneaking into the home of a "desired" girl or woman for sex, that has been progressively emerging as a harmful form of sexual violence. Though decreasing in recent years, instances are still being reported in some rural communities, especially in Eastern and Southern Bhutan.[182]

Social norms powerfully supersede formal laws in South Asia, especially when decisions are made on personal matters, such as marrying a daughter. South Asian nations ban traditional

178   International Parenthood Federation and the Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls. Ending Child Marriage. A guide for global policy action. (2007), p. 17, Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/endchildmarriage.pdf.

179 Anti-Slavery International. Behind Closed Doors: Child and Early Marriage as Slavery. (2015), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from:http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2015/b/behind_closed_doors_child_marriage_as_slavery.pdf.

180   Plan Asia Regional Office and International Centre for Research on Women. Asia Child Marriage Initiative: Summary of Research in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. (2013), p. 21, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PLAN-ASIA-Child-Marriage- 3-Country-Study.pdf (based on UNICEF global databases, 2011, DHS, MICS and other national surveys, 2000-2010).

181   ECPAT International. Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: India. (2011), p. 21.

182   National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. Study on violence against children in Bhutan. (2016), p. 18.

harmful practices and penalise the adults responsible for arranging or permitting child marriage. The reality, however, is that anti-child marriage laws are normally flouted, and prosecution virtually absent. No longer girls, not yet women, child brides are neither children, nor adults, whose status entails the denial of enjoyment of the legal and social entitlements reserved to either their peers or their mothers, by virtue of their age.[183]

2.4 Child trafficking for sexual exploitation

Child trafficking, thriving in South Asia, in the context of widespread human trafficking, is a sensitive indicator of extreme poverty and social vulnerability, persisting in the region despite progress in the economic sphere. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the vulnerable groups that are predominantly prone to trafficking are children on the move, unaccompanied and separated children, girls and women victims of domestic violence and members of women-headed households.[184] Trafficking in Persons (TiP) is interwoven with sexual exploitation of children, as well as with other connected rights violations, such as child, forced and bonded labour; child marriage; involvement in armed conflicts; organ trade; and child neglect in situations of natural disasters and emergencies.[185] The introduction of ICT has facilitated trafficking by connecting traffickers and allowing for exchange of information en route. Evidence further suggests that children on the move rely on ICT as well, many of them carrying mobile phones as they transfer from one location to another.[186] Although in some cases parents or relatives sell women and girls directly to brothel owners or other recruiters, or kidnap children with the use of force, abduction in general is less practised than enticement and fraud.[187] Traffickers lure children away from poor areas on the pretext of dowry-free marriages and well-paid job opportunities and introduce them to highly exploitative and sexually abusive occupations, such as domestic labour or sexual exploitation. Some traffickers may pretend to fall in love with a girl and gradually introduce her to prostitution.

183   ECPAT International. Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2015), p. 5.

184   International Organization for Migration (IOM). Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis. Evidence and recommendations for further action to protect vulnerable and mobile populations. (2015), p. 7, Accessed 6 January 2017 from: https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/press_release/file/CT_in_Crisis_FINAL.pdf.

185   International Organization for Migration (IOM). Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis. Evidence and recommendations for further action to protect vulnerable and mobile populations. (2015), pp. 4-5; Uddin, MB. Human Trafficking in South Asia: Issues of Corruption and Human Security. (2014), International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 18-27 Accessed on 27 December 2017 from: http://www.hrpub.org/download/20140305/IJRH3-19201859.pdf.

186   Raftree, L; Appel, K and Ganness, A. Plan International. Modern Mobility: The Role of ICTs in Child and Youth Migration. (2013).

187   Frederick, J; Basnyat, M.; Aguettant, JL. Terre des Hommes Foundation. Trafficking and Exploitation in the Entertainment and Sex Industries in Nepal: A Handbook for Decision-Makers. (2010), p. 45.

Estimates by NGOs, though not always rigorous, suggest that internal and cross-border sex trafficking is a large-scale business in South Asia involving hundreds of thousands of children and youth across the region.[188] In Pakistan, child sex trafficking to the Gulf States affects girls as young as 10.[189] Demand for children includes use in the commercial sex industry, pornography, slavery and servitude, removal of organs, adoption and child labour, including domestic work.[190] Child labour, trafficking and prostitution may be an inescapable trap when children and their families are indebted, turning victims into slaves.[191]

In 2015, the government doubled convictions and increased prosecutions of trafficking-related offenses, although overall anti-trafficking efforts did not increase. In fact, official complicity remained a matter of concern. Despite a directive by the high commission to cease prosecution of trafficking victims, some of them have continued to be penalised for crimes committed as a result of being subjected to human trafficking.[193] The Afghan government has begun to revise the existing anti-trafficking law, which does not prohibit all forms of human trafficking, aiming to align definitions of trafficking and smuggling with international law.[194]

Bangladesh – NGO reporting alleges that some officials allow human traffickers to operate at brothels, at India-Bangladesh border crossings and at maritime embarkation points.[195] While investigations and prosecutions have increased, the government has continued to draft, though not yet finalised, the implementing rules for the 2012 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (PSHTA), aiming to finally give tools to identify, rescue and restore trafficking victims.[196]

Bhutan – Although human trafficking is not as severe a problem in Bhutan as it continues to be in other parts of the region, initial data seems to indicate that some Bhutanese girls engaged as domestic servants and entertainers in drayungs, or karaoke bars, are being subjected to sex trafficking along with labour trafficking, under pressure resulting from debts or threats of physical abuse.[197] No anti-trafficking training activity has been undertaken by the government in recent times.[198]

188 Ibid., p. 26.
189 ECPAT International. Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Pakistan. (2011), p. 14.
190 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 27.
191 Frederick, J; Basnyat, M.; Aguettant, JL. Terre des Hommes Foundation. Trafficking and Exploitation in the Entertainment and Sex Industries in Nepal: A Handbook for Decision-Makers. (2010), p. 20.
192 United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), p. 66.
193 Ibid., p. 68.
194 Ibid., p. 66.
195 Ibid., p. 89.
196 Ibid.
197 Ibid., p. 98.
198 Ibid.

India – Between 2013 and 2014, at least 67,000 children in India went missing, 45 percent of whom were trafficked into prostitution.[199] According to the US Department of State, the majority of trafficking in India is internal.[200] The primary cause of human trafficking in the country is represented by forced labour. Children in debt bondage are forced to work in brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture and embroidery factories.[201] In the recent past, a series of scandals have been reported in border areas of West Bengal relating to the sale of dozens of infants, including by NGO-run authorised government homes for children in connivance with government child protection staff.[202]

Websites, mobile applications and online money transfers are increasingly used to facilitate commercial sex. Children continue to be subjected to sex trafficking at religious pilgrimage sites and tourist destinations. NGOs and media reports indicated that girls are sold and forced to conceive and deliver babies for sale, while some children, as young as six, are forcibly removed from their families and recruited by separatist groups, such as the Maoists, in some affected Indian states.[203]

Following an increase in trafficking of Nepalis into India after the April 2015 Nepal earthquake, AHTUs (Anti-Human Trafficking Units) were created or re-activated in the states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.[204] The Supreme Court directed the government to create a centrally-organised crime agency by 1 December 2016 to investigate human trafficking, and rescue and restore victims. In 2015, the Central Advisory Committee to combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation was made the lead agency on trafficking by the government. The States of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, where trafficking is endemic, established anti-trafficking taskforces, while Uttar Pradesh officially launched and West Bengal drafted an action plan.[205]

Maldives – Some Maldivian children moved from other islands to the capital, Male, for domestic work have been reportedly subjected to sexual abuse and coerced into forced labour.

---

199 National Crime Records Bureau data as reported in Half of India's missing children last year were sold into prostitution. Scroll.in, 8 September 2014, Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: https://scroll.in/article/677280/half-of-indias-missing-children-last-year-were-sold-into-prostitution.
200 United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2010: India. (2010), p.171, Accessed on 9 January 2017 from: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf.
201 United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), p. 199.
202 Child trafficking racket busted in North Bengal. Hindustan Times, 20 February 2017, Accessed on 6 April 2017 from: http://www.hindustantimes.com/kolkata/child-trafficking-racket-busted-in-north-bengal/story-AJZxbSUaTFeYwlsnMwi01H.html; Child protection officer in West Bengal sells 17 children, held. Mid-Day.com, 5 March 2017, Accessed on 6 April 2017 from: http://www.mid- day.com/articles/child-protection-officer-in-west-bengal-sells-17-children-held/18047186; Bengal nursing home owners held in child trafficking racket. Indian Express, 5 March 2017, Accessed on 6 April 2017 from: http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/mar/05/bengal-nursing-home-owners- held-in-child-trafficking-racket-1577733.html.
203 Ibid, pp. 199-200.
204 Ibid., p. 201.
205 Ibid., p. 202.

The government has been rather weak in its anti-trafficking efforts, relying on a law, the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act (PHTA), which does not prohibit all forms of sex and labour trafficking.[206]

Nepal – Nepali women and girls continue to be subjected to sex trafficking in Nepal, India, the Middle East, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.[207] Estimates indicate that between 7,000 and 12,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked into India for sexual exploitation every year.[208] Together with Nepali men, women and children are victims of forced labour in construction, factories, mines, domestic work, begging and the adult entertainment industry, some of these sectors being known for exposing individuals to sexual abuse. Bribing government officials may help include false information in genuine Nepali passports, including with regard to age, thus favouring sex trafficking of children. Social media and mobile technologies are becoming progressively popular among traffickers in Nepal as well.

Following the April 2015 earthquake, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare banned the transport of children younger than 16 years of age and unaccompanied by a legal guardian to another district without approval from the child welfare board.[209] Prosecution of traffickers has continued, although the law does not define the prostitution of children as human trafficking. Efforts to identify victims of sex trafficking have been weak.[210]

Pakistan – Bonded labour is the main engine for human trafficking in Pakistan. The practise, according to which bonded labourers attempting to escape or seeking legal redress are often returned by the police to the landlord, who hold them in private jails, seems to continue.[211] Normally, children are trafficked from rural and other poor areas, and further to medium and large-sized towns.[212] Children are bought, sold, rented, or kidnapped and placed in organised prostitution and forced labour, especially in begging rings, domestic servitude, small shops and brick kilns. Boys are reportedly involved in sex trafficking around hotels, truck stops, bus stations and shrines. Girls and women are sold into forced marriages to men who, in some cases, prostitute them in Iran or Afghanistan.[213]

In March 2016, the parliament approved child protection legislation encompassing specific provisions prohibiting trafficking in persons, while the Minister of Interior approved a national strategic framework against trafficking in persons and human smuggling.[214]

---

206   Ibid., p. 258.
207   Ibid., p. 281.
208   Frederick, J; Basnyat, M.; Aguettant, JL. Terre des Hommes Foundation. Trafficking and Exploitation in the Entertainment and Sex Industries in Nepal: A Handbook for Decision-Makers. (2010), p. 8.
209   United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), p. 281.
210   Ibid.
211   Ibid., pp. 294-295.
212   Human Rights Watch. Contemporary forms of slavery in Pakistan. (1995), Accessed on 11 January 2017 from: https://www.hrw.org/reports/1995/Pakistan.htm; Iqbal, N. SC seeks explanation about bonded labour. Dawn, 15 January 2015, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://www.dawn. com/news/1157102/sc-seeks-explanation-about-bonded-labour.
213   United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), p. 295.
214   Ibid., pp. 295-296.

Sri Lanka – Sex trafficking of children and women in Sri Lanka hinges on prostitution in brothels, while boys are more involved in SECTT in coastal areas. In Colombo, some children engaged as domestic workers, generally originating from the Tamil tea estate areas, have been found to be victims of sexual, physical and mental abuse, in addition to be exploited in labour, where they are not paid for their work and are restricted in their movements. Bribery of police by brothels is a practise in Sri Lanka as well.[215] Sex trafficking victims have been arrested and charged with crimes committed as a result of being subjected to trafficking. No specialised services have been provided to male victims, and child victims have been kept together with criminals in state institutions.[216]

Legal hurdles

Limited efforts to address human trafficking in the region have been compounded by a number of structural problems that stand in the way of achieving the comprehensive eradication of human and child trafficking. An underlying cause is that most South Asian states have an inadequate understanding of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, leading to blurred definitions. Even the term 'child' is defined differently in existing legal and policy frameworks. Grey areas persist between the definition of key notions such as forced labour, gender-based violence, exploitation, abduction and trafficking. While exploitation remains undefined under international law, TiP (Trafficking in Persons) has been clearly defined in the Palermo Protocol, thus providing a reference that the region should rely upon.[217] Similarly, insufficient attention has been paid to the issue of unsafe migration, a growing phenomenon overlapping with trafficking.

Most countries in the region often impose punitive measures on trafficked victims. By placing the burden of the proof on the victim, they tend to hold the child guilty of crimes connected with trafficking. Bhutan's 2011 penal code indicts human trafficking crimes on the basis of 'any illegal purpose' rather than 'exploitation'. Such vague definition departs from the 2000 UN TIP Protocol. In Dari, Afghanistan, there is confusion about the notions of 'human trafficking' and 'human smuggling', which are used interchangeably. In Nepal, the constitution criminalises forced prostitution, but the term does not encompass the exploitation of children in prostitution as a form of human trafficking. India has enacted narrow laws for the types of crimes that are considered trafficking. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) criminalises sex trafficking victims more than it prosecutes traffickers. Furthermore, victim- witness protection services are rather ineffective and fail to support prosecution processes. Generally, in South Asia, the application of the law is flawed, with cases emerging of government officials failing to recognise the nature of the crime despite having heard the victim's plea.[218]

215   Ibid., p. 346.
216   Ibid., p. 347.
217   International Organization for Migration (IOM). Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis. Evidence and recommendations for further action to protect vulnerable and mobile populations. (2015), p. 3.
218   Hukil, R. South Asia: Anti-Trafficking, Flesh Trade and Human Rights. Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, 12 September 2013, Accessed on 22 December 2016 from: http://www.ipcs.org/article/india/south-asia-anti-trafficking-flesh-trade-and-human-rights-4116.html.

The 2000 United Nations Protocol on Trafficking (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, also known as the Palermo Protocol) has been ratified by a number of countries in the region.[219] Comprehensive reforms of regional and national legislation has yet to be implemented in practice as a result of pitfalls associated with legal frameworks themselves.[220] However, it should be noted that India, with the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (CLA), and its new Section 370, has amended the Indian Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, defining specifically the offence of trafficking by adopting the definition emerging from Article 3 of the United Nations Protocol on Trafficking, ratified in 2011, and stressing in particular the crimes of rape and sexual assault. Existing estimates of the number of girls trafficked to India annually range from between 5,000 to 20,000, though the Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is unable to provide reliable data on the subject.[221]

A number of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) conventions are relevant in the context of child trafficking, such as the Convention on Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia and the Convention on Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters,[222] although some provisions have been criticised for the narrow interpretation of trafficking adopted, which is limited to trafficking for sexual exploitation and neglects other aspects, such as, for example, trafficking for exploitative labour, which are important in themselves and in turn may again link to sexual exploitation.[223]

Corruption

Corruption is a deep-rooted stumbling block to eradicating child trafficking, which metastasises among government officials and police personnel, and makes impunity the rule rather than the exception. Analysis of human trafficking in South Asia tends to conclude that the problem is both endemic and systemic.[224] Transparency International stresses that corruption exists at

---

219 United Nations Treat Collection. Status of Treaties: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII 12a&chapter=18&clang=_en.

220 Uddin, MB. Human Trafficking in South Asia: Issues of Corruption and Human Security. (2014), International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 18-27 (p. 24).

221 Lannon, J and Halpin, EF. Plan Asia Regional Office. Responding to Cross-Border Child Trafficking in South Asia, An Analysis of the Feasibility of a Technologically Enabled Missing Child Alert System. (2013), p. 4, Accessed on 4 December 2016 from: http://eprints.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/544/1/RCBCT%20report.pdf.

222 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). SAARC Conventions. Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://saarc-sec.org/SAARC-Conventions/63/.

223 Lannon, J and Halpin, EF. Plan Asia Regional Office. Responding to Cross-Border Child Trafficking in South Asia, An Analysis of the Feasibility of a Technologically Enabled Missing Child Alert System. (2013), p. 38.

224 Holmes, L. Human Trafficking & Corruption: Triple Victimisation? (2009), in Friesendorf, C. (ed.), Strategies against Human Trafficking: The Role of the Security Sector, pp. 83-114 (p. 83), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.dcaf.ch/content/download/36920/529057/file/Chapter%202.pdf; Uddin, MB. Human Trafficking in South Asia: Issues of Corruption and Human Security. (2014), International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 18-27.

every stage of trafficking.[225] While corrupt public officials hide the problem to protect their illicit behaviours, trafficked victims tend to do the same fearing for their own security. Victims end up therefore being simultaneously the target of traffickers, corrupt officials, and the indifference, and even criminalisation, of the state.[226]

NGOs have alleged that bribes paid by brothel owners ensure that girls are returned to the brothel. The cost of bribes may be added to the debt that the girls owe to the brothel owners and the traffickers.[227]

2.5 Commercial sexual exploitation of children[228]

A decade ago, a groundbreaking study by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India (GoI), blew the whistle on various forms of childhood abuse, stressing that the problem was widespread in the country while it continued to be taboo. It pointed out that "a conspiracy of silence" surrounded sexual violence against children, which, shrouded in a veil of denial, was still perceived as a "western problem" which people preferred to believe India was immune to. Ten years later, India and South Asia have changed substantially but, in several conservative environments, speaking about sexuality may continue to be perceived as inappropriate, and speaking up against sexual abuse, simply unacceptable.[229]

More recently, a similar study from Bhutan revealed that over 1 in 10 children had reported experiencing at least one incident of sexual violence in their lifetime, with a significantly larger proportion of girls than boys experiencing forced sexual intercourse. Schools (especially boarding schools) were found to be riskier places than homes, where peers represented the largest share of the perpetrators.[230] Although commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) may be regarded as a subset of sexual abuse and exploitation, the same study highlighted that

225 Transparency International. Breaking the Chain: Trafficking and Corruption. (2011), Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/breaking_the_chain_corruption_ and_human_trafficking. 226 Holmes, L. Human Trafficking & Corruption: Triple Victimisation? (2009).

227 Uddin, MB. Human Trafficking in South Asia: Issues of Corruption and Human Security. (2014), International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 18-27 (p. 24).

228 According to the recently adopted Terminology Guidelines, " a distinction can be made between 'sexual exploitation' and 'commercial sexual exploitation', with the latter being a form of sexual exploitation where the focus is specifically on monetary benefit, often relating to organised criminality where the primary driver is economic gain". Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children. Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg 28 January 2016. (2016), p.27.

229 Ministry of Women and Child Development. Government of India. Study on Child Abuse: India 2007. (2007), p. 73, Accessed on 18 December 2016 from: http://www.childlineindia.org.in/pdf/ MWCD-Child-Abuse-Report.pdf. The study complements the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children 2006.

230 National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. Study on violence against children in Bhutan. (2016), p. 17.

it was practiced in the Southern and Southeastern regions of Bhutan, where it was found to be higher among girls, with a few instances being reported of boys in the Southern urban areas as well. Estimates by civil society organisations indicated that about half of the female commercial sex workers in Southern cities are Bhutanese and Indian girls younger than 18 years, engaged in hotels, drayangs (karaoke bars) or snooker halls.[231]

A condition of marginalisation can affect the victim of SEC from childhood and continue throughout life, often aggravated, in the socio-cultural context of South Asia, by gender, class or caste, and education background.[232] Children surviving on the streets alone, with their families or linked to the establishment where they work are more frequently found in large- sized South Asian cities. Homeless and disenfranchised, they lack basic care and may trade protection in exchange for favours, especially when they spend the night in the open on pavements, or in makeshift accommodations in squatter colonies, on footpaths, on railway platforms, at bus stations, below flyovers, at unprotected construction sites or workplaces. Survival sex is a frequent coping mechanism to procure food, drugs and entertainment opportunities.[233]

Substance abuse has been clearly associated with child sexual exploitation. The first ever nation-wide study on child substance use commissioned by the Indian National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in 2013 listed high-risk sexual behaviour among the complications of dependence. Over 83 percent of child respondents were found to be using tobacco and almost 68 percent, alcohol, on a daily basis. The majority of children reported a lifetime use of a variety of substances. About 18 percent of the children living at home and 29 percent of those on the streets engaged in sexual activities under the effects of substances, while nearly 17 percent of the first group and 20 percent of the second did so in exchange for either substances or money.[234]

Sometimes exploitation may be inflicted by peers as well. Child-on-child sexual offending are forms of sexual abuse and exploitation that need to be limited, especially when such violations are perpetrated by peers online. Children can operate as facilitators in procuring clients for prostitution.[235] Boys have emerged as particularly vulnerable in this context as evidenced in Nepal, where they engage in commercial sex and act as pimps for sex workers.[236]

231   Ibid., p. 19.
232   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. (2016), pp. 20, 56.
233   National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Assessment of pattern, profile and correlates of substance use among children in India. (2013), p. 10, Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/view_file.php?fid=17.
234   National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Assessment of pattern, profile and correlates of substance use among children in India. (2013), p. 2.
235   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 34. 236 CWIN 2011 cited in CWIN and ECPAT Luxembourg. Preparatory Study for Situational Analysis of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Nepal. A Preliminary Report January 2015. (2015), p. 12.

2.6 Sexually exploitative child labour

Child labour, a reservoir for sexual exploitation
The attention of the world on the issue of child labour in South Asia was never higher than in 2014 when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian anti-child labour activist, shared with Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan. The recognition vividly underscored a strident contrast characterising contemporary South Asia – one of the world's regions where economic growth is fastest and progress in education, slowest. A voracious economy matched with a huge reservoir of uneducated young people is a potentially toxic combination for child labour.[241]

Exploitation of children is rarely unidimensional. Economic and sexual exploitation are often interwoven when children are trapped into illegal employment. In addition to child sexual abuse and exploitation, child labour is interlinked with a host of other violations that are, themselves, cause and effect of sexual violence against children, such as child trafficking, child marriage and sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Although child labour has long been endemic to South Asia, including in its most hazardous forms, its interrelations with sexual abuse and exploitation of children have been broadly overlooked. The appreciation of such a deep level of causality often falls between the cracks of existing systems as child labour organisations are seldom concerned with SEC-related issues, while SEC-oriented agencies do not normally extend the scope of their work to encompass child labour as well.

The links between child labour and SEC deserve further analysis, especially in the context of a region like South Asia, a vast reservoir of children at risk, with India alone accounting for the largest number of child labourers in the world.[242] Estimates relating to child labour in South Asia vary significantly. According to the ILO, conservative evidence indicates that there are 30 million children in employment in the region, almost 17 million in child labour and 50 million children out of school. More specifically, 16.7 million (in the 5-17 age group) are in child labour, out of whom 10.3 million are in the 5 to 14-year age group. Children aged only 5-11 account for about one-fifth of all child labourers in South Asia. Child labour in the 5-17 age group is highest in India (5.8 million), followed by Bangladesh (5 million), Pakistan (3.4 million) and Nepal (2 million). A substantial share of employment of 15-17 year olds is hazardous in nature. About 28 million South Asian children, mostly girls, are reported as neither working nor attending school. Girls are more likely than boys to emerge as 'inactive' in official statistics, which normally fail to capture the hard work that they carry out in domestic chores or sibling care.[243]

241   Khan, S and Lyon, S. International Labour Organization (ILO). Measuring children's work in South Asia. Perspectives from national household surveys. (2015), Accessed on 21 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro- new_delhi/documents/publication/wcms_359371.pdf.
242   Global March against Child Labour. Annual Report January-December. (2014), p. 14, Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://globalmarch.org/sites/default/files/GlobalMarch_Annual_Report_2014.pdf.
243   International Labour Organization (ILO). United Nations. Child Labour in South Asia. Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/WCMS_300805/lang--en/index.htm.

UNICEF estimates in 2015 indicate that the percentage of children aged 5-14 years who were involved in child labour in Afghanistan was 29 percent, 4 percent in Bangladesh, in Bhutan it was 3 percent, in India, 12 percent, 37 percent in Nepal and in Sri Lanka, 3 percent.[244] According to the United States Department of Labor's 2015 Report, in Maldives the percentage of children, between the ages 5 and 14, engaged in child labour is 3.9 percent, and in Pakistan, 13 percent.[245]

Sexually harassed, abused and exploited in domestic child labour
An occupation that stands at the crossroads of child labour, migration and gender is domestic labour, a convergence that often hinges on sexual violence. Domestic work engaging girls and boys is not only regarded as one of the worst forms of child labour, but also as a potential route to sexual exploitation when young people, especially girls, are expected to serve as sexual outlets for the men and boys of the household where they work. Among the forms of violence that domestic child workers have reported experiencing is sexual violence, including harassment, inappropriate advances, use of sexually explicit language, rape or attempted rape, and forced abortion.[246]

While not all domestic workers employed in most South Asian middle-class homes are children, many are girls. Domestic work is the only child labour sector in which girls outnumber boys.[247] Paternalistic values dominating the relationship between employer and child domestic worker may induce a sense of entitlement by the employer and feelings of gratitude by the child and his or her family, which may make it more difficult for child victims of sexual harassment to report abusive employers.[248]

244   UNICEF. The State of the World's Children 2016. A fair chance for every child. (2016), pp. 150-152, Accessed on 23 December 2016 from:https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf. See also, RENEW Bhutan and Save the Children. Study on Status of Vulnerable Children. (November 2015), Accessed on 14 August 2017 from:http://renew.org.bt/wp- content/uploads/2016/03/Study%20on%20status%20of%20vulnerable%20children,%202015.pdf.

245   United States Department of Labor. 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. (2016), p. 668, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2015TDA.pdf.

246   Matsuno, A and Blagbrough, J. International Labour Office (ILO). Child Domestic Labour in South-East and East Asia: Emerging Good Practices to Combat It. (n.d.), pp. xii, 2, 24, Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro- bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_bk_pb_35_en.pdf.

247   International Labour Office (ILO). Marking progress against child labour Global estimates and trends 2000-2012. (2013), p. 7, Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_221513.pdf. 248 Global March against Child Labour and International Labour Organization (ILO). Tackling Child Labour and Protecting Young Workers in Domestic Work: A Resource Manual. (2014), p. 1, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://globalmarch.org/sites/default/files/ResourceManual%28FINAL%29-4July2014.pdf.

248   Global March against Child Labour and International Labour Organization (ILO). Tackling Child Labour and Protecting Young Workers in Domestic Work: A Resource Manual. (2014), p. 1, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://globalmarch.org/sites/default/filesResourceManual%28FINAL%29-4July2014.pdf.

The human rights of domestic helpers are commonly infringed, whether they work in their own country or migrate abroad as cheap labour. On the occasion of Bangladesh hosting the Global Forum on Migration and Development in December 2016, Human Rights Watch called the attention of the country to improving protection for its domestic workers migrating to the Middle East, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Nepal, following complaints recorded on poor living conditions and treatment.[249]

There are specific areas in the region, rural districts or urban slums, from where domestic 'servants' are typically drawn and, similarly, focal regions they are attracted to, often relatively more affluent urban centres. Though domestic workers are not strictly regarded as children on the move, domestic work is often associated with migration and trafficking, both at the national and cross-border levels, offering as such a common entry point for traffickers.[250]

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that in 2010, there were approximately 21.5 million domestic workers engaged in Asia and the Pacific, equal to 40.8 percent of the global total.[251] In India, estimates relating to domestic workers span from 2.5 to 90 million, a clear indication of how measuring the problem remains a persistent challenge.[252] Official statistics estimate that child domestic work is one of the major occupational areas for children, pertaining to 15 percent of all child workers.[253]

Several national laws prohibiting or regulating specific forms of child labour normally fail to provide comprehensive enough a definition to guide policy that effectively bars all dimensions of the issue, including domestic labour. Implementation of the law also continues to be an issue. While official figures indicate that a large number of inspections are conducted yearly by labour department officials, in practice actual detected cases are rare, and so is successful prosecution. Concerns may be raised on whether labour inspections can be considered effective methods to gauge sexual abuse and exploitation of children, especially in isolated workplaces, such as private homes where domestic servants are employed.[254]

249 Human Rights Watch. Bangladesh: Improve Protections for Migrant Domestic Workers. 8 December 2016, Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/12/08/bangladesh-improve-protections-migrant-domestic-workers.

250 Matsuno, A and Blagbrough, J. International Labour Office (ILO). Child Domestic Labour in South-East and East Asia: Emerging Good Practices to Combat It. (n.d.), p. xii.

251 International Labour Organization (ILO). New ILO's standards will help 21.5 million domestic workers. 2 February 2015, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/WCMS_342113/lang--en/index.htm.

252 International Labour Organization (ILO). Domestic workers across the world: Global and regional statistics and the extent of legal protection. (2013), Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---   publ/documents/publication/wcms_173363.pdf.

253 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Government of India. Children in India. A statistical appraisal. (2012), p. 12, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.thehinducentre.com/multimedia/archive/02447/Children_in_India__2447575a.pdf.

254 Global March against Child Labour. Handbook for Parliamentarians for Prevention of Child Labour. (2013), pp. 17, 19, 26, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.globalmarch.org/sites/default/files/Handbook%20for%20Parliamentarians_India.pdf.

Child labour, the other face of poor education

Analysts agree that child labour is closely linked with lack of education opportunities, which may be regarded as a core driver for other forms of exploitation as well. Children bereft of education lack capacities to cope with life, defend themselves from risks, develop safely and thrive. The vast number of children who drop out of school prematurely are either forced into exploitative labour or married off early – or both. Deprived of the safety nets granted by the family and the school, they are placed at serious risk of all forms of exploitation, including of a sexual kind.[255]

The global number of children and young adolescents not enrolled in school has been rising since 2011, in stark contrast with the international community setting a more ambitious sustainable development goal aiming at achieving universal secondary education. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, South and West Asia, jointly with sub-Saharan Africa, account for the bulk of the out-of-school children in the world.[256] In Pakistan alone, there are more than 5.6 million out-of-school children of primary school age.[257] In 2013, of the 59 million children of primary school age who were out of school, 10 million lived in South and West Asia. The proportion grew with regard to adolescents. The same region represented 26 million of the global 65 million out-of- school adolescent children of lower secondary school age. In terms of gender disparities in education, in South and West Asia, girls account for 47 percent of all out-of-school children and 48 percent of all out-of-school adolescents, an only apparent equal status largely due to the fact that the number of boys exceeds the number of girls in the total population by more than any other region.[258]

2.7 Heightened vulnerabilities in humanitarian crises, conflicts and environmental disasters

In recent years, South Asia has suffered a wide range of humanitarian crises, conflicts and environmental disasters. Severe floods have affected Pakistan, and cyclones have hit Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Earthquakes have had destructive effects in Nepal. Chronic drought, especially in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and India, impact food security and access to water. Conflicts continue to plague the region. Afghanistan has experienced internal displacement caused by the Kunduz conflict and Pakistani refugees, while civilian casualties continue to be a serious

255   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 17.
256   UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Education for All Global Monitoring Report. A growing number of children and adolescents are out of school as aid fails to meet the mark, Policy Paper 22, Fact Sheet. (2015), pp. 1, 4, Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/fs-31-out-of-school-children-en.pdf.
257   UNICEF. The State of the World's Children 2016. A fair chance for every child. (2016), p. 46.
258   UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Education for All Global Monitoring Report. A growing number of children and adolescents are out of school as aid fails to meet the mark, Policy Paper 22, Fact Sheet. (2015), pp. 4-5.

problem. Pakistan has been also dealing with IDP returns across the border with Afghanistan. Security conditions have deteriorated substantially in Bangladesh as attacks by extremists have intensified against minority groups, civil society representatives and foreigners.[259]

Disasters and extreme climatic conditions, both common in the region, impact children very seriously, threatening their survival, safety and protection. An estimated 50 percent of children worldwide are affected by natural disasters.[260] South Asia, together with Sub-Saharan Africa, account for over three quarters of child deaths caused by climate change in recent decades.[261] With a large population, South Asia is susceptible to greater disasters in the wake of climate change. More than 750 million people in the region have been affected by at least one natural disaster in the last two decades.[262]

South Asia, together with Sub-Saharan Africa, account for over three quarters of child deaths caused by climate change in recent decades
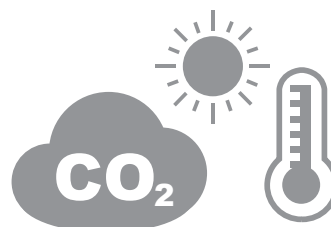
Humanitarian crises disrupt the life of entire communities and threaten their survival. Evidence shows that the most vulnerable to environmental disasters are children, women and excluded individuals.

Emergencies undermine the capacity of families to care for their children and protect them. When 'erosive coping strategies' are employed, children are taken out of school[263] or married off, thus becoming exposed to further risks such as trafficking, child labour and other forms of exploitation.

259 UNICEF. South Asia. Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/rosa. html#1.
260 UNICEF. Annual Report 2014. Our story. (2015), p. 8, Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.unicef.cz/odkazove_zdroje_textove_materialy/vyrocni_zpravy/unicef_annual_report_2014. pdf. While it is understood that 'all disasters are man-made', as established by UNISDR in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, the expression 'natural disaster' is used here to indicate events caused by natural drivers, such as floods, earthquakes and cyclone common in the South Asia Region. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. United Nations. Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. (2005), Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L- docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf.
261 DARA and the Climate Vulnerable Forum. Climate Vulnerability Monitor 2010. The state of the climate crisis. (2010), p. 12, Accessed on 9 January 2017 from: http://daraint.org/wp- content/uploads/2010/12/CVM_Complete-1-August-2011.pdf.
262 Memon, N. Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research. Disasters in South Asia. A regional perspective. (2012), p. 9, Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: https://www.tdh.de/fileadmin/user_upload/inhalte/04_Was_wir_tun/Themen/Humanitaere_Hilfe/Katastr ophenhilfe/Disaster_in South_Asia_-_Naseer_memon.pdf.
263 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). United Nations. Overview of Natural Disasters and their Impacts in Asia and the Pacific, 1970 – 2014. (2015), pp. 26-27, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Technical%20paper-Overview%20of%20natural%20hazards%20and%20their%20impacts_final.pdf.

REGIONAL RESPONSES TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

South Asia has striven to respond to the multiple problems surrounding sexual exploitation of children, enacting laws, framing policies and developing programmes in a number of relevant realms. Responses at the regional, national and local levels are meant to address the host of SEC determinants discussed in the report. Section 3 will review the major initiatives that have been carried out to date, seeking to highlight the tools that can be best leveraged to combat SEC, as well as identify the gaps persisting and needing to be addressed if SEC has to be finally eradicated from South Asia.

3.1 Building child protection systems

Over recent years, the region has taken significant steps in establishing systems aiming to strengthen the protection of children and defend them from sexual abuse and exploitation. Child protection mechanisms have progressively emerged in governance structures, in law and policy, and in initiatives managed by civil society organisations and the private sector to create the institutional arrangements necessary to curb SEC.[264]

Creating child-friendly governance institutions
Important initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen the governance structures and processes in the region. Policies that have had far-reaching effects have been those strengthening local governance, such as India's 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts (1992), respectively giving constitutional recognition to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) (the rural and urban local self-government systems), and entrusting them with several responsibilities, including the delivery of basic services to children.[265]

Despite progress, however, the issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation has remained largely marginal on the agendas of municipal governments. Local government institutions (LGIs) are nevertheless necessary partners in the fight against SEC, especially in the emerging scenario where SEC may be a by-product of rapid urbanisation and migration processes. LGIs can make it possible to envision long-term strategic action against the sexual exploitation of children at the local level, where most of the violations take place.

264   Save the Children et al. The South Asian Report on the Child-friendliness of Governments. (2013), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/documents/the_south_asia_report_lowre s.pdf.
265   Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab. Government of India. Panchayati Raj System in Independent India. (n.d.), Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://www.pbrdp.gov.in/documents/6205745/98348119/Panchayati%20Raj%20System%20in%20Inde   pendent%20India.pdf.

Local governance with children

A child-friendly governance structure and process established in villages, towns, cities and communities where children live is a precondition for achieving the participation of young people in addressing sexual exploitation in their own living environments – the home, the school, the community. A groundbreaking experience has been the national Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) strategy supported by UNICEF and implemented by the Government of Nepal since 2011, a multi-stakeholder initiative allowing young people to influence policy decisions and ensure that their concerns are reflected in the development plans of relevant rural or urban local bodies. About 80,000 child club members participate in the numerous VDCs (Village Development Committees), municipal and district-level planning mechanisms active across Nepal, also succeeding in leveraging additional financial resources for children from the Government of Nepal. The CFLG strategy offers an ideal approach for institutionalising mechanisms to address SEC-related issues in the government. It further provides a widespread network to reach out with awareness and programme actions to children across an entire country.[266]

An interesting experience is the Biratnagar Working Children's Club, in Nepal. The initial club, founded in 2001, has grown into a citywide network including over 2,000 members committed to raising awareness on a number of children's rights-related issues, including exploitative labour, child marriage and trafficking.[267]

Over the past decade, children's councils or parliaments have grown in South Asia, institutionalising young people's participation both in the government system and the community structure. An example of such a model is the balshaba (the children's assembly) initiative, started in the Indian State of Karnataka, which helps elicit and convey young people's concerns to the Panchayat and state officials. In urban areas, ward sabha experiences have been tried out by The Concern for Working Children (CWC), a civil society organisation, in Bengaluru, India.[268] The emergence of rights-focused children's groups is promising in terms of influencing governance models that are much more participatory and inclusive for children than in the past.[269]

266 UNICEF. Child Friendly Local Governance Programme. Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://unicef.org.np/our-work/cflg. See also: United Nations Nepal Information Platform. Nepal declares its first child friendly VDC. Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org.np/success-stories/nepal-declares-its-first-child-friendly-vdc.

267 Taylor, S. UNICEF Nepal. Children's clubs help working young people learn about their rights. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nepal_50660.html.

268 Save the Children and PWC. Forgotten voices. The world of urban children in India. (2015), p. 45; The Concerned for Working Children (CWC). Children's Citizenship. Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.concernedforworkingchildren.org/empowering-children/childrenscitizenship/.

269 ECPAT International and Children's Environments Research Group (CERG). Placing children's voices at the heart of organisations that serve them. Lessons from governance with children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. (2016), p. 10, Accessed on 8 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PLACING-THE-PERSPECTIVES-OF-CHILDREN- at-the-HEART_Thematic-Report.pdf.

Participatory planning and management with children

In some areas of the region, participation of children in public affairs has become powerful enough to enable their involvement in local planning and management,[270] like in the experience of the Indian State of Kerala, where UNICEF and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) have partnered to support local authorities in implementing Comprehensive Child Development Programme (CCDP) frameworks aiming to holistically deliver services for children. Acknowledging lack of awareness about SEC, members of the Kudumbashree, a female-oriented, community-based poverty reduction project by the Government of India, have been entrusted with carrying out surveys in their communities to identify cases of domestic violence, including physical and sexual abuse against children, with the objective of responding at the Panchayat level.[271]

Across South Asia, National and Regional Children's Forums provide a participatory platform for children to come together and discuss issues affecting their lives.[272]

Regional initiatives to end violence against children

SACEPS (South Asia Centre for Policy Studies), an independent regional, non-profit organisation, led a two-year participatory consultation process involving civil society organisations in six SAARC countries, resulting in the adoption of the Citizens' Social Charter for South Asia. The document calls for the "elimination of all forms of violence against children, child abuse, sexual exploitation, trafficking and child marriage, child pornography, [and] use of children in conflict and crime".[273]

The region has equipped itself with a dedicated platform to address children's rights, the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), active since 2005.[274] SAIEVAC, an SAARC Apex body, is an inter-governmental mechanism committed to promoting the rights and protection of children in the region. Its governing board enlists representatives from the eight countries in the region, as well as two child board members.[275] SAIEVAC is committed to promoting the agenda emerging from the UN Study on Violence against Children (VAC)

270   UNICEF. The State of the World's Children 2012. Children in an Urban World. (2012), p. 50.
271   Ortiz, C; Bishai, C; Rashid, J; Khan, Z. Knowledge Community on Children in India. Child-friendly Local Governance in Kerala. A case study of two panchayats. (2013), p. 36, Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.kcci.org.in/Document%20Repository/2013- KCCI%20 KeralaLocalGovernance%20final.pdf.
272   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Report. SAIEVAC Children's Consultation on the UN Study on Violence Against Children Follow-up Actions. (2012), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/ docs/SAIEVAC_child_consultation _final_report.pdf.
273   Rahman, SH; Khatri, S; Brunner, HP (eds). Asian Development Bank. Regional Integration and Economic Development in South Asia. (2012), pp. 29-30. Accessed on 11 December 2016 from: http://www.iadb.org/intal/intalcdi/PE/2013/10757.pdf.
274   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/.
275   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). SAIEVAC Mechanism. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/about-saievac/saievac-mechanism/; http:// www.saievac.org/our-work-2/thematic-areas/

through the active engagement of SAARC countries as spelled out in the Colombo South Asia Call for Action on Ending Violence Against Children, 2012.[276] The SAIEVAC work plan 2010- 15 to end violence against children at regional and national levels has helped coordinate the SAARC countries in making a joint commitment to establishing child-sensitive reporting and referral mechanisms in the core areas of child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, corporal punishment and child marriage.[277]

In this regard, it should be noted that Sri Lanka has emerged as the South Asian country enlisted as a Pathfinder Partner under the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children for having undertaken multi-sectoral efforts in meeting this goal.[278] With a similar concern, in Bhutan, the National Commission for Women and Children and UNICEF have endeavoured to prepare a study on violence against children in the country.[279] Most recently, the cited 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting, hosted by the Ministry for Women, Children and Development (MWCD), Government of India (GoI), from 9-11 May 2016, in New Delhi, reached a regional consensus on the need to urgently address issues relating to child sexual abuse and exploitation. As SAIEVAC has been recently in the process of developing its next Five Year Work Plan, the Meeting agreed to develop a regional strategy to mainstream and scale up efforts to address all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, with a focus on SEC online and in the context of trafficking, in addition to developing regional standards and codes of conduct that safeguard children from commercial sexual abuse and exploitation in travel and tourism.[280] Subsequently, in July 2016, in Bhutan, on the 'Regional Consultation on the SDG Alliance 8.7 – South Asia Launch', SAIEVAC facilitated a discussion with ministerial officials on the preparation of a regional strategy to curb sexual exploitation of children in South Asia.

---

276   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). South Asia Call for Action on Ending Violence Against Children, South Asia Follow Up Regional Consultation. (28-30 May 2012), Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/political_declarations/South_Asia_Call_for_A ction_%20On_Ending_Violence_against_Children_Colombo_Declaration.pdf.

277   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Workplan 2010-2015. (2010), p. 12, Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/political_declarations/SAIEVAC5YEAR0WOR KPLAN2010.pdf.

278   End Violence against Children, The Global Partnership. Pathfinding Partners. Accessed on 14 April 2017 from: http://www.end-violence.org/pathfinding.html.

279   National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. Study on violence against children in Bhutan. (2016).

280   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Adopted recommendations of the 4th SAIEVAC ministerial meeting. 9-11 May 2016, New Delhi, India. (2016), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/recommendations_of_4th_ministerial_meeting/Circulation%20-%20   Adopted%20Recommendations%20of%20the%204th%20SAIEVAC%20Ministerial%20Meeting%20(F)_opt.pdf.

In parallel, a South Asian Coordinating Group for Ending Violence Against Women and Children (SACG), formed by UN agencies and international and national-level NGOs, has been instituted to combat violence at the regional level. Each SAARC member state has established a National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (NACG) in coordination with SACG, in order to strengthen and promote interagency work at various levels.

Policy frameworks to enhance the protection of children's rights
Starting from the year 2000, the South Asian nations have been adopting National Plans of Action (NPAs) for children, normally including child protection initiatives. Such tools have been established to create comprehensive policy frameworks at the national level to give coherence to a variety of activities implemented for children by several stakeholders. The latest NPA, the National Plan of Action for Children 2016, launched by the MWCD, GoI, in December 2016, unprecedentedly includes issues relating to "online threats to children, child pornography and sex tourism", trafficking and child marriage. Also worth mentioning is the process followed in Bhutan, where initial steps taken through the Gross National Happiness Commission's Tenth Five-Year Plan (2008-2013) have finally led to the mapping of the child protection system and the development of the National Plan of Action for Child Protection in Bhutan, 2012, while also paving the way for a more child protection-oriented Eleventh Five- Year Plan (2013-18) document.[281]

While the potential of NPAs has probably yet to be fully unleashed, such instruments need to be strengthened for building stringent monitoring mechanisms to ensure that planned initiatives are actually implemented and the situation of children improved. The commitment to tackling sexual abuse and exploitation is still rather marginal in existing NPAs, while governments tend to delegate to NGOs the responsibility of experimenting in this still, fairly, novel programme area.[282]

A promising move toward stronger government commitment was recorded in January 2017, when the MWCD, GoI, released a new tool to monitor the situation of children in the country. A 'Child Vulnerability Map' was prepared by the NGO Childline India Foundation, in the context of the National Plan of Action for Children, to assess and regularly monitor performance against key indicators including prevalence of child trafficking, child sexual abuse, child marriage, missing and runway children and child labour. The Indian States of Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra emerged on the map as those most affected by child trafficking.[283]

281 National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. Study on violence against children in Bhutan. (2016), p. 33.
282 Save the Children. Stepping Up Child Protection: An Assessment of Child Protection Systems from All Countries in South Asia, Including Reflections from Central Asia. (2010), Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.crin.org/en/docs/Stepping_Up_Child_Protection.pdf.
283 Govt releases 'child vulnerability map' to depict problems faced by kids across India. Hindustan Times, 25 January 2017, Accessed on 25 January 2017 from: http://www.hindustantimes.com/india- news/govt-releases-child-vulnerability-map-to-depict-problems-faced-by-kids-across-india/story- 5SvJXPB5UBeP6SM96OuhoM.html.

A prominent national-level platform is the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) launched by MWCD GoI in 2009 as an attempt to harmonise several child protection initiatives under one single umbrella programme. ICPS has progressively set up a multi-level child protection system establishing institutions at the national, regional, state, district, block, village and ward levels. While the scheme fails to embrace a number of key issues, including in the realm of child sexual abuse and exploitation, its merit has been in instituting statutory bodies in the area of child protection, notably the Child Welfare Committee (a parallel platform active also in Bangladesh, at the national, district and Upazila levels); scaling up the Childline programme (akin to Bangladesh's Child Helpline 1098); and providing open shelters for children in need of care and protection, including SEC victims.[284] A powerful instrument, India's ICPS Village-Level and Ward-Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC and WLCPC), similar to Bangladesh's Community Based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC), which is active in both urban and rural local government institution systems, allows the multi- sectoral convergence of service providers, local government representatives and children in addressing child protection issues in all local communities.[285] Such mechanisms need to be strengthened, especially by ensuring effective field implementation and genuine child and adolescent participation.

Legal frameworks to curb the sexual exploitation of children
All South Asian countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC), thus affirming their commitment to upholding children's rights. Furthermore, as members of SAARC, all nations have ratified the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia.[286]

By ratifying these protocols and conventions, countries in the region are bound to align their own legislative frameworks with human rights standards set at the regional and international levels, and state constitutionally to protect all children from all forms of discrimination and exploitation. SAIEVAC has pledged to ensure that "[b]y 2015, all States have taken the necessary steps to end sexual abuse and exploitation against children by adopting comprehensive legislation, ratifying all relevant international and regional instruments and enforcing a Code

284 Ministry of Women and Child Development. Government of India. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government–Civil Society Partnership. (2003), Accessed on 22 January 2017 from: http://www.childlineindia.org.in/CP-CR-Downloads/ICPS.pdf.

285 Margaret de Monchy. Evaluation of the UNICEF Bangladesh Child Protection Programme 2012-2016. UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office. (September 2016), Accessed on 17 August 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/Final_CP_Evaluation_Report_Bangladesh_2016-002.pdf.

286 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia. (2002), Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: http://www.saarc-sec.org/userfiles/conv-children.pdf.

of Conduct for telecommunications services (i.e. internet providers, mobile phone companies, internet cafes) and travel and tour outlets to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation",[287] a set of commitments that is likely to continue in the future.

While the foundation for fulfilling child protection rights in the region has been laid, no country has yet developed comprehensive legislation harmonised with the OPSC, specialised laws addressing specific issues such as SECTT or OCSE, or substantive extraterritorial jurisdiction. At present, most countries lack the necessary instruments to handle effectively cases of transnational child sex offenders, while the implementation of existing laws is also weak.[288] Furthermore, Bhutan has yet to ratify ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour and, together with Bangladesh, ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, although a giant step forward has been taken by India in recently ratifying both core ILO conventions.[289] The Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons has been ratified only by Afghanistan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Reviewing the current child protection legal framework, the 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting (New Delhi, 9-11 May 2016) assessed India's Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 (POCSO Act) as path-breaking legislation and a useful point of reference for other countries in the region.

287 South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/sexual-abuse-and-exploitation/.
288 Save the Children et al. The South Asian Report on the Child-friendliness of Governments. (2013).
289 Government of India, Cabinet approves ratification of the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization (ILO).Press Information Bureau, 31 March 2017, Accessed on 12 April 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160369.

Table 4. Ratification of key international conventions and protocols by South Asian countries

	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
UN CRC								
OPSC, UN CRC Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography								
Palermo Protocol, Trafficking in Persons	Accession - 2014				Accession - 2016			
ILO n. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour				Will enter into force on 13 June 2018				
ILO n. 138, Minimum Age	Minimum age specified: 14 years			Minimum age specified: 14 years Will enter into force on 13 June 2018	Minimum age specified: 16 years	Minimum age specified: 14 years	Minimum age specified: 14 years	Minimum age specified: 14 years
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	Accession - 2003							
OP3 CRC, UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure					Signed - 2012			

☐ Ratified

Overall, terminology in law and policy pertaining to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children continues to be a challenge; it is often confusing and contradictory, thus making it difficult to safeguard children. In the process, victims of SEC may be ignored, or worse, criminalised instead of protected. Existing legislation on child sexual abuse material is unequipped to address such a complex issue, especially in its emerging online context. Generally, the attention paid to protecting children online has been so far limited both in policy and in the law. While South Asia is incrementally filling legislation gaps, efforts need to be enhanced in developing more consistent legal frameworks and enforcing the law to effectively protect and restore victims, while punishing perpetrators.

Transforming gender norms by empowering children

Several initiatives address gender issues in South Asia, which, however, will not be widely reviewed in the context of this report. An example worth recalling is the Bangladesh National Plan of Action on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health 2013, addressing a range of issues including violence and sexual abuse.[290] Also promising has been the Kanyashree Prakalpa conditional cash transfer scheme designed by the Department of Women Development and Social Welfare in the Government of West Bengal, India, to improve the status and wellbeing of adolescent girls by supporting access to education and thus delaying the age of marriage until 18 years of age.[291]

Significant in terms of influencing wider social norms and behaviours with the involvement of religious authorities is Bhutan's Child Care and Protection Office of the Dratshang (the Commission for the Monastic Affairs) having responsibility for raising awareness on children's rights, promoting alternative forms of discipline and extending protection to child monks and nuns.[292]

Aligning the private sector with children's rights

A breakthrough in the region has been the Indian Companies Act, 2013, which has significantly empowered Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the fast-growing private sector. Clause 135 under the Act, applicable from the fiscal year 2014-15, establishes that large companies, as defined by standards outlined in the law, are expected to spend on CSR activities at least 2 percent of their average net profit from the previous three years.[293] The contribution of the private sector, however, may be channelled beyond the mere adoption of corporate social responsibility (CSR) instruments.

290   Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. (2015), Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://mowca.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mowca.portal.gov.bd/page/6768565c_9b45_4aed_b 390_919a52462d6c/CRC_draft_final_15.6.2015_bn.pdf.
291   Government of West Bengal. Kanyashree. Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in/kp_4.0/index.php.
292   National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. Study on violence against children in Bhutan. (2016), p. 37.
293   PWC. Handbook on Corporate Social Responsibility in India. (2013), p. 12, Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: https://www.pwc.in/assets/pdfs/publications/2013/handbook-on-corporate-social- responsibility-in-india.pdf.

International child law has sought to involve the private sector through a variety of mechanisms such as norms, codes, compacts and principles. While no international standard in the form of treaty, convention, protocol or declaration has been set so far to guide the action of the private sector, including CSR, in the area of child protection, an important step has been taken with the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9, passed in June 2014, establishing a working group mandated to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. The committee has held two sessions since its creation and there are expectations that the forthcoming treaty should bind governments and replace soft law with hard law in the area of business and human rights.[294]

Among the documents that have been drafted to guide the private sector on human rights issues, there are some that apply more specifically to children's rights.

- In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which provide a global standard for preventing and addressing the negative effects caused by business activity on human rights;[295]
- UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children developed a set of Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) to guide businesses in protecting children, including in the ICT sector;[296]
- The UN Norms on the Responsibility of Transnational Corporations, approved in August 2003, offer a comprehensive global document relating to the human rights obligations and responsibilities of companies;[297]
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises establish a set of recommendations framed by governments for the private sector;[298]

294 Human Rights Council. United Nations. Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council. 26/9 Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. (14 July 2014), A/HRC/RES/26/9, Accessed on 20 January 2017 from: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/alldocs.aspx?doc_id=23680.

295 United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework. (2011), Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf.

296 UNICEF. Corporate Social Responsibility, Introduction to the Principles. Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/csr/12.htm.

297 Weissbrodt, D and Kruger, M. Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights. (2003), American Journal of International Law, Vol. 97, pp. 901-922, Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://scholarship.law.umn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1247&context=faculty_articles.

298 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD). OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. (2011), Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://www.oecd.org/corporate/mne/48004323.pdf.

- The ILO's Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy[299] and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work[300] provide voluntary sets of recommendations addressed to private sector enterprises.

The CRBP, launched in Bangladesh in 2012, have been only partially adopted, with companies being found lacking in terms of awareness of their responsibility to children and adoption of internal guidelines relating to child protection.[301] In fostering guidelines to govern the action of the private sector, countries should ensure that the provisions made to protect children are regularly monitored and accompanied by reliable enforcement procedures.

3.2 Making online environments safe for children amid challenges

As Internet connectivity transcends national borders, steps to make the Web a safe environment for children need to be taken complementarily at the domestic and international levels. CSAM and online facilitation of offline child sexual exploitation are inherently transnational crimes and require law enforcement responses at the transnational level. In South Asia, however, legal and policy responses to the crime are primarily of a national kind and collaborative law enforcement rather limited, with the result that CSAM cases from the region are normally alerted to national authorities by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), or foreign law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, accessing justice by victims of OCSE may be challenging when exploited children technically breach national laws either by viewing pornography online or by consenting to sexting. Concern has been raised that such children may be criminalised for producing and distributing CSAM (of themselves), or for having sex outside of marriage, rather than being recognised and assisted as victims.[302] Cybercrime investigation is still limited. Rarely are cyber offences involving child victims or offenders reported to the police or reaching the courts. Gaps in judiciary and law enforcement systems and in personnel capacity substantially hamper criminal investigation and prosecution of online child sexual abuse and exploitation.[303]

299   International Labour Office (ILO). Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. (2006), Accessed on 20 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/--- multi/documents/publication/wcms_094386.pdf.
300   International Labour Organization (ILO). ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up. Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm.
301   Save the Children. Mapping of Good Child Rights Corporate Social Responsibility Practices in Bangladesh. (2014), Accessed on 11 April 2017 from: https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/sites/bangladesh.savethechildren.net/files/library/Mapping%20   of%20Good%20CSR%20Practices%20in%20Bangladesh.pdf.
302   UNICEF. Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia. (2016), p. 13, 14, 30.
303   UNICEF India. Child Online Protection in India. (2016), pp. 55-62.

ICMEC's 2016 global review on legislation relating to 'child pornography'[304] ranks India as the country meeting all six criteria set by the study, followed by Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, while the other countries in the region fail to fulfil most of the criteria, as follows:

Country	Legislation Specific to Child Pornography	'Child Pornography' Defined	Computer-Facilitated Offenses	Simple Possession	ISP Reportin g	Data Retentio n Broadly
Afghanistan	x	x	x	x	X	✓
Bangladesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	x
Bhutan	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
India	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maldives	x	x	x	x	X	x
Nepal	x	x	x	x	X	x
Pakistan	x	x	x	x	X	✓
Sri Lanka	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓

Reporting cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation online faces formidable challenges in the region. Barriers include shame and stigma experienced by victims and families, lack of child/user-friendly reporting mechanisms, unavailability of child protection services, inadequate information about existing procedures, low awareness of the problem and legal provisions, and massive backlogs of cases pending with the police and lower courts for years, as reported in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, for example.[305] Very few specialised facilities for counselling and restoration of child victims of cyber offences exist, while juvenile justice systems have yet to develop counselling services for underage offenders.[306]

304   International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC). Child Pornography: Model Legislation &Global Review. (2016), Accessed on 12 April 2017 from: http://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Child-Pornography-Model-Law-8th-Ed-Final-linked.pdf.
305   UNICEF. Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia. (2016), p. 42-44.
306   UNICEF India. Child Online Protection in India. (2016), p. 9.

Connecting with global responses

A number of global initiatives to enhance cybersecurity, such as, notably, the WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response (MNR) meant to help countries develop their responses to online child sexual exploitation, have an actual or potential influence on the region, which can progressively connect with them and learn from their experience.307 The 'WePROTECT Children Online Summit'[308] and the 'Global Alliance against Child Abuse Online'309 are examples of leading international initiatives aiming to keep children safe online. Although none of the South Asian countries have joined the Global Alliance so far, Sri Lanka and Pakistan signed on to the WePROTECT Statement of Action 2014, while only Nepal undersigned the WePROTECT Statement of Action 2015.[310]

As part of its commitment to combatting the online sexual exploitation of children, ECPAT International has been active both globally and in the region by producing tools, conducting training programmes and advocating with governments in this realm. The 'Make IT Safe' campaign has been an ECPAT initiative aiming to empower young people to use the Internet safely.[311] ECPAT also manages the 'Combating Online Child Sexual Exploitation Programme' and conducts training activities based on multilingual online tools to strengthen the capacity of its network members active worldwide. A significant contribution has been the Guide to Action for Religious Leaders and Communities to protect children from online sexual exploitation, developed by ECPAT International and Religions for Peace.[312]

307   WePROTECT Global Alliance. Model National Response (MNR) Guidance Document. Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: http://www.weprotect.org/the-model-national-response/.

308   Home Office, Department for Culture, Media & Sport. Government of the United Kingdom. WePROTECT Summit tackles online child sexual exploitation on global scale. Gov.uk, 16 November 2016, Accessed on 15 January 2017from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weprotect-summit- tackles-online-child-sexual-exploitation-on-global-scale.

309   European Commission, Migration and Home Affairs. A Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online. Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we- do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/global-alliance-against-child-abuse_en.

310   Statement of Action: WePROTECT Summit 10-11 Dec 2014. (2014), Accessed on 12 April 2017 from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data file/477612/171211_-_Statement_of_Action_-_Countries_LEAs_-_FINAL__4_.pdf; Statement of Action by Governments to Tackle Online CSE, Abu Dhabi WePROTECT Summit 16-17 November 2015. (2015), Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484757/FINAL_Country _SOA_111215.pdf.

311   ECPAT UK and ECPAT International. Make-IT-Safe. Peer Expert Training Project. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://www.make-it-safe.net/index.php/en/.

312   ECPAT International and Religion for Peace. Protecting Children from Online Sexual Exploitation. A Guide to Action for Religious Leaders and Communities. (2016), Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: https://rfp.org/sites/default/files/pubications/Protecting%20Children%20from%20Online%20Sexual%2 0Exploitation_0.pdf.

Regional-level action

At the regional level, in April 2016, SAIEVAC organised a 'Regional Expert Roundtable on Prevention of Violence in Schools in South Asia', in Colombo, Sri Lanka with the objective of addressing online violence against children among the SAARC countries.[313] SAIEVAC's Strategic Response to Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) (supported by a grant from the United Kingdom and in partnership with the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Violence Against Children) is one of the projects awarded internationally by the Global Fund to End Violence Against Children for making the Internet safer for children.[314]

The 2015 INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference gathered law enforcement agencies from across Asia to agree to strengthen regional efforts against transnational crime, including creating measures by INTERPOL member countries to combat cybercrime and crimes against children online.[315]

UNICEF has initiated a number of actions, such as holding an 'Expert Consultation on Child Online Safety' in April 2016 in Delhi and preparing a 'Child Online Protection in India' Report in September 2016.[316] In the same year, the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and the Data & Society Research Institute carried out an assessment of online child sexual exploitation in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.[317]

National efforts

In January 2017, MWCD, GoI, announced plans to form a 'National Alliance against Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation', with the objectives of developing a common definition of CSAM to be reflected in existing law; establishing a multi-stakeholder secretariat, within the Ministry, equipped with a web portal and a hotline for reporting abuses online, and strengthening existing service delivery systems; providing a platform for networking and sharing information among government and non-government actors; and educating parents, teachers and other important actors.[318] Over the past year, there have been indications that the Government of Nepal has been in the process of drafting a national cyber security

313   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and Know Violence in Childhood. Regional Expert Roundtable on Prevention of Violence in Schools in South Asia, 25-27 April 2016, Colombo. (2016), Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://www.knowviolenceinchildhood.org/ newsevents/detail/9.

314   End Violence against Children, The Global Partnership. Global Fund to End Violence Against Children Announces Its First Grant Awards to 15 Projects Making the Internet Safer for Children. 10 April 2017, Accessed on 16 April 2017 from: http://www.end-violence.org/fund_announcement. html. 315 INTERPOL. INTERPOL Asia meeting sets its sights on enhancing regional security. 17 April 2015, Accessed on 16 April 2017 from: https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2015/ N2015-044.

316   UNICEF India. Child Online Protection in India. (2016).

317   UNICEF. Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia. (2016).

318   Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Ministry of Women and Child Development to setup National Alliance against online Child sexual abuse and exploitation. Press Information Bureau, 16 January 2017, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/ newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157384.

policy with the possible involvement of the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The provisional draft document under preparation, referring to Nepal 2015 National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy, emphasises the need to maximise safety and security in relation to the use of ICTs, making an explicit reference to creating a safe environment for children by reducing cyber-threats and implementing technical protection measures, as well as establishing a multi-sectoral Child Online Protection Working Group (COPWG).[319]

 Additional steps have been further taken to make access to the Internet safer. In September 2016, the GoI declared plans to issue an advisory to Internet Service Providers requesting that they filter and block images, videos and text relating to child sexual exploitation.[320] In Sri Lanka, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) issues notices to alert commercial banks when customers make electronic payments and Internet transactions to buy CSAM online.[321]

Civil society mobilisation
Additional significant civil society efforts include Prerana's 'Aarambh India Initiative', which, in collaboration with UK-based Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), in 2016 launched the www.aarambhindia.org website, India's first Internet hotline to report and take down sexually explicit images and videos of children from the Internet.[322] Also, the Child Protection India's 'CAN' programme has aimed to raise cyber awareness, particularly among parents and children.[323] Further in India, the Developing Internet Safe Community (DISC) Foundation has been working with law enforcement authorities and instituted a 'Safer Internet Day (SID)' to promote a more responsible use of Internet and mobile phone technologies, especially among children and young people.[324] In Nepal, Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) has launched a 'Campaign on Protecting Children Online', investigating the behaviour of Nepali children online; focussing on

319 National Cybersecurity Policy, August2016. Draft – Not Approved (n.a.). The draft document referred to is still under preparation and yet to be approved or made official.
320 Centre to block online content on child abuse. The Hindu, 25 September 2016, Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/Centre-to-block-online-content-on- child-abuse/article14998942.ece.
321 Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Financial Intelligence Unit. Light a Million Candles Campaign. (2007), Circular No. 8, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://www.cbsl.gov.lk/pics_n_docs/09_lr/_docs/directions/fiu/All_FIU_Circulars_2007.pdf.
322 Aarambh India. #DisconnectTheAbuse: India's 1st Internet Hotline is Now Live. Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://aarambhindia.org/disconnecttheabuse-indias-1st-internet-hotline-now-live/. While the service is initially available in English and Hindi, there are plans to translate content in twenty-two regional languages.
323 Foundation for Institutional Reform & Education (FIRE). CAN: Children and Netiquette. Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://childprotectionindia.com/can.php.
324 Developing Internet Safe Community Foundation. Safer Internet Day 2014. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://discfoundation.com/safer-internet-day-2014/; Developing Internet Safe Community Foundation. Law Enforcement Event at Delhi. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://discfoundation.com/law-enforcement-event-at-delhi/.

preparing a situation analysis; mobilising awareness campaigns; and finally forming working groups of representatives from the government, the IT industries, the telecommunications sector and children's rights organisations.[325]

Mobile device-operated apps have been employed in a number of creative ways to strengthen child protection programme implementation and track progress in the field. The 'GPower' programme, a joint venture of Accenture and Child in Need Institute (CINI) in India, awarded by Vodafone Foundation, uses a mobile app pre-installed on tablets and Android phones to empower girls and protect them from trafficking and child marriage. Using Cloud-based technology, GPower ensures real-time transmission of data to centralised servers, thus enabling fast data analysis and counteraction.[326]

The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) collaborated with the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) to develop and implement the 'Code of Conduct for Internet Cafés'.[327] In the sphere of awareness-raising, the Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD), an NGO, reached out to urban and rural youth, educating them on staying safe online, privacy settings, password settings and safe information sharing online. Similarly, in Maldives, the Society for Health Education (SHE) runs awareness-raising campaigns around the issues of cyber bullying and blackmail.[328] Another civil society effort worth noting is 'Combatting Sexual Exploitation of Children Online and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism' programme implemented by Peace, a Sri Lanka-based NGO, seeking to stimulate the development of appropriate legislation and law enforcement processes while strengthening the capacity of communities and individuals by targeting children at risk.[329] In 2016, Terre des Hommes Netherlands launched a three-year 'Programme Against Sexual Exploitation of Children in Asia', addressing in particular OCSE and SECTT in Bangladesh, as well as in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, in addition to a number of Southeast Asian countries.[330]

325 CWIN Nepal. CWIN Campaign on Protecting Children Online in Nepal. Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://www.cwin.org.np/index.php/programme-of-actions/cwin-campaign-on-protecting-children- online-in-nepal.html.

326 GPower: The app that saved over 200 girls from trafficking, child marriage. IndiaToday.in., 23 February 2015, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://indiatoday.intoday.in/technology/story/gpower--the-app-that-saved-over-200-girls-from- trafficking-child-marriage/1/420484.html.

327 Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC). 2012 Annual Report. 2013, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://www.sparcpk.org/2015/Publications/2012.pdf.

328 UNICEF. Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia. (2016), p. 49.

329 ECPAT Sri Lanka. Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children Online (SECO) and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT). Accessed on 14 April 2017 from: http://ecpatsrilanka.org/seco-sectt/.

330 Terre des Hommes Foundation. Launch of Three Year Programme Against Sexual Exploitation of Children in Asia. 3 March 2016, Accessed on 20 April 2017 from: https://www.terredeshommes.nl/en/news/launch-three-year-programme-against-sexual-exploitation- children-asia.

Contribution by the private sector

Private sector ICT companies have a pivotal role to play in making the Web safe. While action is still slow to start in South Asia, a number of initiatives have been recorded in India, the largest ICT market in the region. In January 2016, Telecom companies including Bharti Airtel, Vodafone, Reliance Communications, Telenor and Reliance JioInfocomm, made public a plan that would make consumers responsible for disabling access to porn sites by offering a censorship tool. This move followed a ban, albeit short-lived, by the government on about 900 porn sites in previous months. In addition, Telenor India was planning to launch in India network-level safety and child sexual abuse filters already running in its global markets.[331]

In the region, three mobile phone companies and ISPs are members of the UN Global Compact: Telenor (the parent company of Grameenphone in Bangladesh and of Telenor in Pakistan), and Ooreedoo and Dhiraagu in Maldives. Partnerships with UNICEF have engaged these companies in a number of activities, including producing educational materials for parents, offering online child safety resources, improving computer literacy among students and supporting child helplines to strengthen reporting of abuse.[332]

In 2009, an international group of mobile operators established the GSMA Mobile Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Content to help obstruct CSAM. The Alliance enlists major mobile phone operators active in South Asia such as Telenor, Mobitel and Dhiraagu. Mobile operators such as Grameenphone (Bangladesh), Dhiraagu (Maldives), Dialog Axiata (Sri Lanka) and Mobitel (Sri Lanka) have committed to notice and takedown procedures for CSAM.[333] In 2014, the GSMA entered a partnership with Child Helpline International (CHI) to protect young people and safeguard their right to participation. They committed to establishing child helplines in all of their markets with the aim of preventing criminals from circulating child sexual abuse material through their networks. TeliaSonera is seeking to cooperate with other industry partners to develop work against OCSE further, also through their membership with the ICT Coalition and the GSMA Mobile Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Content.[334]

Uninor's WebWise has announced that it aims to reach 20,000 children through Internet education and online safety workshops. The company further plans to hold regional-level 'Safe Internet Forums' with the objective of expanding its audiences to involve schools, parent groups and children's rights organisations.[335]

331 Khan, D. Parental firewall for porn in the works: Telcos may offer parents with censorship tool. The Economic Times, 19 January 2016, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://economictimes. indiatimes.com/tech/internet/parental-firewall-for-porn-in-the-works-telcos-may-offer-parents with-censorship-tool/articleshow/50631788.cms.

332 UNICEF. Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia. (2016), p. 37.

333 Ibid., p. 38.

334 TeliaSonera. Children Online. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://annualreports.teliasonera. com/en/2015/sustainability-work/children-online/.

335 Telenor Group: Mobile operators must take responsibility for internet safety. Telenor Group, 10 February 2015, Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: https://www.telenor.com/media/press-releases/2015/telenor-group-mobile-operators-must-take-responsibility-for-internet-safety/.

3.3 Protecting children from travelling child sex offenders

Twenty years ago, when the First World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was held, SECTT emerged as the paramount concern. Regrettably, child protection policy and legislation developed since in South Asia have broadly failed to address SECTT, despite the fact that the problem has persisted and in fact risks worsening in light of evolving challenges, including the considerable expansion of the travel and tourism industry, the introduction of unregulated economic policies, and limited community awareness and resilience.

Responses to SECTT in South Asia have been adversely affected by a general lack of common understanding and action around this issue. Poor conceptual clarity is reflected in ambiguous and often ineffective legislation, and weak collective efforts to target the main issues. The capacity of national governments to combat SECTT has varied. Despite several initiatives set in motion, limited coordination and monitoring mechanisms have prevented the development of sufficient evidence and weakened the outcomes of agreements made so far both at SAARC and national levels.

Yet, there has been no dearth of international initiatives, which South Asia could rely upon. As an initial step, in 1994, the Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations (UFTAA) adopted 'The Child and Travel Agents' Charter'.[336] The WTO (now UNWTO), in 1999, adopted the 'Global Code of Ethics for Tourism'. In 2008, WTO launched the 'Don't Let Child Abuse Travel' campaign jointly with several stakeholders, including ECPAT International, the ILO, UNICEF and numerous tourism partners from different sectors.[337] The 'Yokohama Global Commitment' (2001) and the 'Rio de Janeiro Declaration' drew the attention of the entire world to SECTT, recognising that it was a phenomenon of global dimensions.[338] Since 2007, the World Tourism Network on Child Protection has been engaged in preventing all forms of exploitation of

335   Telenor Group: Mobile operators must take responsibility for internet safety. Telenor Group, 10 February 2015, Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: https://www.telenor.com/media/press-releases/2015/telenor-group-mobile-operators-must-take-responsibility-for-internet-safety/.
336   World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and United Federation of Travel Agents' Association (UFTAA). The Child and Travel Agents' Charter. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://ethics.unwto.org/en/content/protect-children-campaign-partner-uftaa.
337   The WTO campaign was based on a 2003 Child Wise Australia campaign, Don't Let Child Abuse Travel, accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://ethics.unwto.org/content/campaign-child-protection; World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://ethics.unwto.org/en/content/global-code-ethics-tourism.
338   UNICEF. The Yokohama Global Commitment 2001, 2nd World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Yokohama, Japan, 17-20 December 2001. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/events/yokohama/outcome.html; UNICEF. III World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-28 November 2008. (2008), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/protection/World_Congress_III_against_Sexual_Exploitation_of_Children_and_ Adolescents(1).pdf.

children in connection with travel and tourism.[339] The 'Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP)'framework was developed in 2013 as a joint effort by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children, hinging on the foundation principle that all businesses should fulfil their responsibility to respect and support the human rights of children.[340]

An essential reference framework is the 'Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism' ('The Code'),[341] an initiative promoted by ECPAT jointly with the UNWTO and in collaboration with a number of relevant stakeholders to provide a set of guidelines for sustainable and responsible tourism with the specific aim of preventing SECTT. Regrettably, 'The Code' has not been significantly adopted in South Asia so far, apart from some large stakeholders that have signed it, such as the Adventure Travel Trade Association (active in Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan). Except for India and Sri Lanka, there have been no more than one or two signatories in each of the other countries in the region.[342] A similar instrument has been however framed in the region, 'the Code of Conduct for Safe and Honourable Tourism', an initiative spearheaded at the national level by a collaboration by the Government of India's Ministry of Tourism, Save the Children India, UNODC and the Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATA). The code explicitly prohibits the search for CSAM, with the result that, after signing it, several hotels, including at popular tourist destinations like Agra, have blocked access to pornographic sites.[343]

At the regional level, the SAIEVAC Regional Work plan 2010-2015, acknowledges 'sex tourism' as a prominent form of violence against children.[344] Also, Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism, an ECPAT Training Resource Kit, offers a valuable resource to strengthen the capacity of organisations committed to fighting SECTT in the region.[345]

339 World Tourism Organization. Ethics and Social Responsibility. World Tourism Network on Child Protection. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://ethics.unwto.org/content/world-tourism-network-child-protection.
340 For more information see Children Rights and Business Principles. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://childrenandbusiness.org/.
341 World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and ECPAT International. Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. (n.d.), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/lac/code_of_conduct.pdf.
342 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 56.
343 India Ministry of Tourism, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Save the Children India. Code of Conduct for Safe & Honourable Tourism. (2010), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/southasia/News/conduct_final.pdf.
344 South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Workplan 2010-2015. (2010), p. 16.
345 ECPAT International. Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism. An ECPAT Training Resource Kit. (2008), Accessed on 17 April 2017 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp- content/uploads/legacy/ECPAT_CST_Code_Toolkit.pdf.

A number of national-level initiatives have also been undertaken. Sri Lanka's 'National Plan on Eradication of Child Sex Tourism' emerges at present as a positive, though isolated effort in conceiving a National Plan of Action explicitly addressing SECTT. Adopted in 2006, it envisages community awareness and capacity building for stakeholders in the travel and tourism industry. Its implementation has led to strengthening registration in guesthouses and hotels for foreign tourists and travellers, though it has been insufficiently effective in addressing wider child protection concerns. In Goa, India, a rule allows adults to take to private homes and hotels only blood-related children.[346] It is worth noting that Afghanistan's 2004 'National Strategy for Children at Risk' incorporated issues concerning the recruitment of children into the Afghan police and armed forces. In this context, the document addresses SECTT particularly in relation to military presence in the country and harmful practices such as bachabazi.[347]

In addition to the government and the private sector, a number of civil society organisations have been active in combatting SECTT. In fact, CSOs and NGOs have been perhaps the most active actors in carrying out SECTT-related work in the areas of advocacy, awareness and social mobilisation at both local and national levels. While a discrete number of civil society organisations specialise in issues relating to SECTT (such as the Indian NGO EQUATIONS, for example),[348] more commonly child protection-oriented agencies may address the issue of SECTT in the context of broader programme work. The overall attention remains, however, rather limited, with existing NGO-run child hotlines rarely reporting incidents of sexual exploitation committed by travelling sex offenders.[349]

Reviewing the mechanisms developed to tackle SECTT in the region, it is evident that SECTT is not yet firmly included in the policy agenda. The National Plan of Action for Children frameworks, which would have been the natural instruments for planning action against SECTT, have in most cases ignored the issue altogether. For example, India's recently released National Plan of Action for Children 2016, though recalling the emerging threat of SECTT, refrains from addressing it programmatically.

Similarly, while South Asian countries have laws that deal with some of the aspects relating to SECTT, none has developed legislation that specifically and comprehensively addresses the issue. In addition, the effectiveness of law enforcement in this area remains a matter of concern due to lack of adequate definitions in legislation on sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and inconsistent implementation. One finding of the Global Study is that law

---

346 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 38.
347 Government of Afghanistan, Ministry of Labor& Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled. National Strategy for Children 'at-risk'. A Better Future for Afghanistan's Vulnerable Children and their Families. (2004), Accessed on 7 August 2015 from: http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session5/AF/AFG_Afghanistan_National_Strategy_for _Children_at-risk.pdf.
348 Equations. Child and Tourism. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.equitabletourism.org/tourism_details.php?AID=60&year=2015&tab=1.
349 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 68.

enforcement officers and the judiciary may not always be able to understand SECTT as a crime, or appreciate its nature.[350]

Summing up, inadequate appreciation of the issue, conflicting definitions in legal and policy frameworks, limited political will to tackle the problem and lack of coordination among countries in the region emerge as the main hurdles in developing policies that encompass SECTT-related issues and, complementarily, devise market mechanisms that impose the respect of human rights standards on travel and tourism industry stakeholders. Deep-rooted conditions need to be addressed in South Asia for concrete actions against SECTT to be feasibly initiated.

3.4 Stopping sexual abuse and exploitation of children through child marriage

Over the past few years, human rights bodies have been increasingly vocal against child marriage. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agenda includes target 5.3, to 'Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation', under Goal 5, to 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. On 2 July 2015, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously adopted the resolution on Strengthening Efforts to Prevent and Eliminate Child, Early and Forced Marriage, calling for developing "national action plans, strategies and policies [...] coordination mechanisms and multi-sectoral interventions."[351] The landmark resolution to end child marriage agreed on 21 November 2014, during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, marked the first commitment ever made by UN Member States to take resolute action to condemn CEFM. It calls on the states to adopt legal and policy measures aimed at "preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage" and promoting "the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses".[352] A significant contribution has been also provided by the CEDAW and CRC Committees, whom, in their Joint General Comment, assimilate early marriage to child marriage, and further equate early/child marriage to forced marriage.[353] The Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, calling for raising and enforcing the minimum marriage age to 18 years, has stressed that the victims of servile marriage, usually female, are often young, thus pairing child marriage with servile marriage.[354]

350 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. (2016), p. 70.
351 United Nations Human Rights Council. Strengthening Efforts to Prevent and Eliminate Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2015), UN Doc. A/HRC/29/L.15, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d_res_dec/A_HRC_29_L15.docx.
352 United Nations General Assembly Resolution. Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2014), UN Doc. A/Res/69/156, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/156.
353 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Joint General Recommendation/General Comment. (2014), CEDAW/C/GC/31-CRC/C/GC/18.
354 United Nations Human Rights Council. Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Gulnara Shahinian. Thematic report on servile marriage. (2012), UN Doc. A/HRC/21/41, para. 14, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/docs/A-HRC-21-41_en.pdf.

The South Asian region has joined international efforts by translating the expanding anti- CEFM global agenda into concrete steps within the nations that most contribute to this issue in the world. Although SAARC has yet to produce a specific instrument to combat child marriage,[355] the SAARC Convention on Child Welfare calls on making marriage registration compulsory to enforce the minimum marriage age legal provision.[356] At the Regional level, SAIEVAC has been particularly active in the fight against child marriage.[357] The *Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia* was endorsed on 7 November 2014 at the 'Regional Convening on Using Law to Promote Accountability to End Child Marriage', organised by SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), and hosted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), Government of Nepal.[358] Subsequently, in September 2016 in Nepal, SAIEVAC organised the '2nd Regional Convening on using law to promote accountability to end Child Marriage in South Asia', again in collaboration with CRR and under the aegis of MoWCSW, Government of Nepal.[359] The SAIEVAC-supported Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia 2015-2018 identifies a number of planned activities for the region and aims to achieve an increase of the minimum marriage age to 18 for both boys and girls in at least four member states by 2018.[360]

355   Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. 19 November 2012, Article 19, Civil and Political Rights, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: https://www.seapa.org/wp-content/uploads/ASEAN-HUMAN-RIGHTS-DECLARATION.pdf.

356   South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia. (2002), Article 4(3)(d).

357   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Concept Note: 3rd Technical Consultation on Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children based on Tradition, Culture, Religion and Superstition & 4th SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. 24-29 September 2013, Bhutan, p. 3, Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Concept- Note-3rd-TC-CR.pdf.

358   SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and the Center for Reproductive Rights. Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia. (7 November 2014), Accessed on 18 January 2017 from: https://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/SA%20End%20 Child%20 Marriage%20Brochure_20Nov14(final)-2%20(1).pdf.

359   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). 2nd Regional Convening on using law to promote accountability to end Child Marriage in South Asia. 27 September 2016, Accessed on 21 April 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/news-updates/2nd-regional-convening-on- using-law-to-promote-accountability-to-end-child-marriage-in-south-asia-2/.

360   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC', 3rd Technical Consultation Recommendations: Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children in South Asia. (2013), p. 2, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac. org/download/3rd%20TC%20Recommendations%20Formated.pdf; South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia 2015-2018. (2015), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/ Thematic%20Area%20Resources/Child%20Marriage/RAP_Child_M arriage.pdf.

Country-specific challenges and responses
All countries in the region have enacted laws against child marriage. Legal provisions, however, are seriously undermined by poor implementation by marriage registrars and law enforcement. The legal standards set in the region vary across countries, particularly with reference to the legal age of marriage for boys and girls.[361]

Table 5. Legal age of marrige in South Asia

COUNTRIES	Female	Male
Afghanistan	16	18
Bangladesh	18	21
Bhutan	18	18
India	18	21
Maldives	18	18
Nepal	18 (20)*	18 (20)*
Pakistan	16	18
Sri Lanka	18	18

* 18 years with parental consent and 20 years without parental consent

Similarly, all countries have initiated targeted policy and programme initiatives to address child marriage-related issues at the national and local levels.

Afghanistan – Afghanistan has been recording positive trends, resulting in the incidence of child marriage falling over the last two decades, with women aged 30 to 34 being six times more likely to have married by 15 than adolescent girls today.[362] While an Afghan girl is not allowed to legally marry until she is 16, according to Sharia Law, she can marry at age 15 with her father's consent. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Disabled has developed a national strategy for children at risk with the objective of generating awareness on rights violations and negative health consequences for young girls in forced and early marriages.[363] A law on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) was signed by the President in 2009, although it is still awaiting ratification by the parliament.[364]

361 Center for Reproductive Rights. Child Marriage in South Asia: International and Constitutional Legal Standards and Jurisprudence for Promoting Accountability and Change. (2013), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: https://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/ ChildMarriage_BriefingPa per_Web.pdf.
362 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Child Marriage in Southern Asia. (2013), Accessed on 2 January 2016 from: http://www.icrw.org/publications/child-marriage-in-southern-asia/.
363 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). Child Marriage in South Asia: Realities, Responses, and the Way Forward. (2013), Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www. icrw.org/publications/child-marriage-in-south-asia-realities-responses-and-the-way- forward/.
364 The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia. (n.d.), p. 11.

Bangladesh – Bangladesh has undertaken a number of initiatives to combat CEFM.[365] The High Court Division (HCD) of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh expressed concern over a 2009 early marriage case, stating that an occurrence in which a child is separated from her mother against her will "can be nothing other than cruel and inhuman treatment" in violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Bangladesh Constitution.[366] The Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance, 1983, and the Dowry Prohibition Act 1980 have banned the practice of exchanging dowries over marriages. Sanctions have been imposed, though implementation continues to be poor.[367] The Bangladesh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2016 was approved with the stated goal of reducing the high rate of child marriage in the country. Critics, however, have pointed out that, by allowing child marriage in 'special cases', such as when a girl becomes pregnant accidentally or illegally, to protect her honour, the new law opens the door to the very problem it claims to address.[368]

At the grassroots level, the newly instituted Gram Sarkars (village governments) have taken the responsibility of combatting child marriage as part of their broader local development agenda.[369] 'Child Marriage-Free Zones' have been established by Union Parishad, local government institutions, involving the community and government stakeholders.[370] Worth noting is also the establishment of Violence Against Women Committees at sub-district, district and national levels.

Bhutan – In Bhutan, where the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) establishes that marrying and having sex with a child is considered statutory rape,[371] the Government has launched the 'Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS)' initiative with the primary aim of enhancing youth access to health services and a secondary objective of preventing early marriage.

365 Center for Reproductive Rights. Child Marriage in South Asia International and Constitutional Legal Standards and Jurisprudence for Promoting Accountability and Change. (2013).

366 State v. Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs & Others. Suo Motu Rule No. 5621. H.C.D. Bangladesh. (2009), 358.

367 The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia. (n.d.).

368 Girls Not Brides. Bangladesh and the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2016: A Recap, Accessed on 18 August 2017 from: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/bangladesh-child-marriage-restraint-act-2016-recap/.

369 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Child Marriage in Southern Asia. (2013).

370 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 80.

371 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Child Marriage in Southern Asia. (2013).

India – In India, efforts to address CEFM are challenged by flaws persisting in the legal system. Inconsistency between the law and personal laws, matched with poor law enforcement, jeopardises consistent prosecution. In such a multi-cultural country, the conflicting legal frameworks are numerous and difficult to harmonise.[372]

Box 2. Legal frameworks relating to child marriage in India

- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) provides that the marriage of a girl below the age of 18 and a boy below the age of 21 is punishable by law.
- The Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) challenges marriage before a girl turns 18 and establishes that marriages below the age of 18 are voidable only if a girl was married before the age of 15.
- According to Muslim personal laws, puberty, presumed to coincide with 15 years of age, is set as the minimum age of marriage. Parents or guardians, however, are permitted to arrange marriages on behalf of girls below age 15.
- The Indian Christian Marriage Act (ICMA) stipulates that a preliminary notice for marriages involving girls below the age of 18 and boys below the age of 21 should be published at least 14 days prior to the marriage. Minors (defined as individuals below the age of 21) can marry before the expiration of the preliminary notice period with the consent of a parent or guardian.
- The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act (PMDA) considers the marriage of a girl under the age of 18 as invalid, though it requires neither consent nor penalties for violating the minimum age.
- Jewish personal laws, which are uncodified, require that a minimum age of marriage for girls coincides with puberty, presumed to occur at 12 years.

Several actions have been initiated by both the government and civil society organisations to deal with the huge problem of early marriage in the country. In 2006, a Supreme Court decision mandated the registration of all marriages.[373] In May 2010, the Delhi High Court stated that "child marriage is a violation of human rights.[374] High courts in India have recognised that reproductive rights are to be protected under the right to life. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, addresses sexual violence against adult women, failing however to recognise marital rape. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) considers sexual assault within marriage only for girls below the age of 15 years. In the same year, the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) developed a National Strategy Document on Prevention of Child Marriage to guide the formulation of a Draft National Plan of Action to Prevent Child Marriages in India.[375]

372   Center for Reproductive Rights. Child Marriage and Personal Laws in South Asia. (2014), pp. 3-4.
373   International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). Child Marriage in South Asia: Realities, Responses, and the Way Forward. (2013), p. 8.
374   Association for Social Justice & Research [ASJR] v. Union of India & Others, W.P. (Crl.) No. 535/2010, Delhi H.C. (2010), para. 9 [hereinafter ASJR v. Union of India & Others], para 9.
375   The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia. (n.d.), p. 19.

Maldives – The Ministry of Law and Gender has reported that sexual abuse has been increasing, while early marriage and pregnancy are major concerns in the country. The law allows boys and girls to marry under age 18 provided that they have reached puberty, have parental consent and no objection by the court. CEFM trends appear to be declining overall in the country.[376] A National Council for the Protection of the Rights of the Child has been established by the government with the responsibility of monitoring the progress of the National Plan for Action.[377]

Nepal – The Nepal Supreme Court has stated that the government is legally obligated to take "economic, social, administrative, legal and other appropriate measures for the effective enforcement of the rights granted to children by the CRC and other international treaties without any discrimination."[378] In this context, the Government of Nepal's MoWCSW is in the process of drafting a national strategy to address child marriage with the support of UNICEF Nepal and Girls Not Brides Nepal.[379] In 2007, Nepal became the first country in the region to formally recognise reproductive rights as a fundamental right in the national constitution. The Supreme Court issued a directive order on 13 July 2006 to guide the government to effectively enforce the national law on child marriage.[380]

Among the several initiatives undertaken by NGOs, World Vision's project to stop child marriage in Nepal, funded by the UK government, has been working to promote children's rights, combat child marriage among youth, children and parents, and strengthen community resilience to harmful practices.[381]

Pakistan – In Pakistan, the colonial-era Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 stipulates that the legal age for marriage is 16 for girls and 18 for boys. Through the Hindu Marriage Bill, Sindh has been the first province of Pakistan to set at 18 years the legal age of marriage for both boys and girls.[382] Sharia law is highly influential in the country and allows girls to be legally married at age 16. The government has attempted to introduce more stringent punishment

376 United States Department of State. Maldives 2015 Human Rights Report. (2016), p. 21, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/253181.pdf.
377 The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia. (n.d.), p. 25.
378 Advocate Pun Devi Maharjan "Sujana" v. Government of Nepal & Others, Decision No. 7981, N.K.P. 2065, Vol. 6, at 751, para. 25 (2008) (unofficial translation done by the Center for Reproductive Rights) [hereinafter Advocate Pun Devi Maharjan "Sujana" v. Government of Nepal & Others].
379 Girls Not Brides. Child marriage around the world: Nepal. Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/nepal/.
380 Center for Reproductive Rights. Child Marriage in South Asia International and Constitutional Legal Standards and Jurisprudence for Promoting Accountability and Change. (2013), pp. 49, 28.
381 World Vision International. Working with DFID to stop child marriage in Nepal. 21 July 2016, Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: http://www.worldvision.org.uk/news-and- views/blog/2016/july/working-dfid-stop-child-marriage-nepal/.
382 India Today.in. Sindh becomes first province in Pakistan to adopt Hindu Marriage Bill: All about the Bill, 18 February 2016, Accessed on 18 August 2017 from: http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/hindu-marriage-bill/1/599218.html.

for perpetrators of vani and swara, tribal customary laws that use forced marriage of girls as compensation to settle family disputes. Child marriage in deeply entrenched in the traditional customs of Pakistan and tribal councils often overrule state courts in this respect, with marriage registration remaining widely unenforced. The dowry system persists as a common practice along with early marriage.[383]

Sri Lanka – On numerous occasions Sri Lankan courts have ruled invalid non-consensual marriages forced on girls by parents.[384]

3.5 Addressing trafficking for the sexual exploitation of children

Of the three key phases characterising an anti-trafficking intervention – prevention, protection and prosecution – the first one seems to have drawn the most attention in the context of South Asia. In the prevention phase, governments have provided training programmes across the region on early identification, investigation and prosecution of cases of human and child trafficking for different cadres of officials and law enforcement personnel through workshops, seminars, anti-trafficking materials (e.g., posters, publications, street dramas), and initiated awareness-raising activities jointly with NGOs and UN agencies. For example, in 2015, an NGO in India trained journalists on how to better report cases of human trafficking to raise awareness within minority and marginalised communities.[385]

The phases of protection and prosecution in anti-trafficking operations, however, are rather neglected. Prosecution of trafficking offences, especially registration of trafficking cases and conviction of traffickers, is considerably limited in South Asian countries. As for the protection phase, rescue and restoration are persistent challenges for governments. Repatriation of trafficked persons, particularly from India to Bangladesh and Nepal, is a complex kind of intervention threatened by lack of resources and practical means.[386]

A number of promising actions have been taken in the recent past across the region. Anti-trafficking efforts in the SAARC region hinge on an evolving response framework including several actions.[387]

---

383 Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Child Marriage in Southern Asia: Context, Evidence and Policy Options for Action. Policy Brief Child Marriage in South Asia. (n.d.), Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: https://www.afppd.org/Resources/Policy-Brief-Child- Marriage-in-South-Asia.pdf.

384 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Child Marriage in Southern Asia. (2013).

385 United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), p. 13.

386 Uddin, MB. Human Trafficking in South Asia: Issues of Corruption and Human Security. (2014), International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 18-27 (p. 24).

387 Lannon, J and Halpin, EF. Plan Asia Regional Office. Responding to Cross-Border Child Trafficking in South Asia, An Analysis of the Feasibility of a Technologically Enabled Missing Child Alert System. (2013), p. 74.

- The South Asian Association of Child Helplines (SAACH) is a new initiative linked to the SAARC Toll Free Helpline project. Proposed by SAIEVAC and CHI (Child Helpline International), in 2012 this project was approved by the SAARC Development Fund (SDF). The 1098 toll free telephone number has so far been harmonised in four countries (India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan), with the intent of finally involving all eight SAARC countries and facilitating intervention in addressing cross-border trafficking of children, in particular, as agreed at the consultation of the National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (NACG), held in Colombo in 2013.[388] In the context of tracking mechanisms conceived to trace and rescue trafficked, missing and runaway children, it is relevant to recall Childline, Railway Childline, TrackChild and the Missing Child Alert programme.[389] Significant is also the experience of Khoya Paya, dubbed 'The Citizens corner of TrackChild', a web portal developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY),Government of India, to enable the exchange of information about missing and found children by allowing reporting through text, photographs and videos.[390] In parallel, Operation Smile has been promoted by Government of India to rescue and restore missing children with the active involvement of law enforcement agencies.[391]

Within this regional framework and as part of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) formulated in March 2015 for the protection of children moving through train stations, Childline in Railway Platforms, known as Railway Childline, has been established in twenty Indian railway stations as a joint initiative by the Ministries of Women and Child Development and Railways. It offers a 24/7 toll-free helpline for children in distress, linked to services aimed to rescue and restore unaccompanied, missing, runaway and trafficked children, with the creation, in parallel, of help desks and awareness activities.[392]

388   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVC). SAIEVAC-SAACH (South Asian Association of Child Helplines) Consultation. (2014), SAIEVAC Newsletter 1, Issue 2, Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/SAIEVAC%20Newsletter/ SAIEVAC%20Newsletter%202%20Final% 20Printing.pdf.

389   Childline India Foundation. Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://www.childlineindia.org.in/; Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Track the Missing Child: National Tracking System for Missing & Vulnerable Children. Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http:// trackthemissingchild.gov.in/trackchild/index.php; Plan International. Missing Child Alert. Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: https://www.planindia.org/missing-child-alert.

390   Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Government of India. Khoya Paya. Accessed on 23 April 2017 from: http://digitalindia.gov.in/content/khoya-paya.

391   Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. "Operation Smile-II" to start from 1st January, 2016 throughout the country. Press Information Bureau, 14 December 2015, Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133154.

392   Railway Childline. Providing Care and Protection to children: A joint initiative of Ministries of Women & Child Development and Railways. (n.d.), Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http:// wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/RaiwayChildline_1.pdf.

- SAARC legal frameworks have been aiming to harmonise national law in the region.
- Chief of Police conferences have been held to discuss networking arrangements among police authorities in the Member States.[393]
- Immigration conferences have been organised by SAARC Immigration Authorities to address matters relating to immigration.[394]
- The SAARC Human Rights Mechanism provides a platform for the human rights organisations active in the SAARC region, including all the National Human Rights Commissions.[395]
- The Missing Child Alert (MCA) programme, led by Plan International in vulnerable regions of India, Bangladesh and Nepal, laid the foundation for the fight against cross-border child trafficking in South Asia. Its strategy has been to rely on a technologically assisted, institutionalised system of alert aimed to support rescue, restoration, repatriation and reintegration operations for children who are at-risk or victims of cross- border trafficking.[396]

A high-level intergovernmental Regional Task Force reviews and monitors the implementation of the regional instruments on an annual basis. This body has fostered the development of an SOP aimed at facilitating regional and inter-country operations related to the Convention on trafficking, particularly with regard to safe repatriation.[397]

With reference to the SAARC legal frameworks, a number of instruments and resolutions are worth recalling as follows:
- The SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (adopted in January 2002) helps simplify repatriation procedures for trafficking victims, although it has been criticised for limiting the definition of trafficking to the sole purpose of prostitution, lacking provisions for victim compensation and criminalising prostitution.[398]
- The SAARC Convention on Promotion of Welfare of Children provides a broad framework for child protection.

393 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters. Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://saarc- sec.org/areaofcooperation/detail.php?activity_id=20.

394 7th Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities Held in Islamabad. Radio Pakistan, 2 August 2016, Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.radio.gov.pk/02-Aug-2016/saarc-dg-s-of-immigration-meet-in-islamabad.

395 Lannon, J and Halpin, EF. Plan Asia Regional Office. Responding to Cross-Border Child Trafficking in South Asia, An Analysis of the Feasibility of a Technologically Enabled Missing Child Alert System. (2013), p. 74.

396 Ibid., p. 2.

397 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Gender related issues: Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children. Accessed on 17 December 2017 from: http://saarc-sec.org/areaofcooperation/detail.php?activity_id=10.

398 ECPAT International. Strengthening Laws to Combat Sexual Exploitation of Children. (2008), p. 33, Accessed on 7 January 2017 from http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/Legal_Reform/Legal_Instrument_En_Final.pdf.

- The SAARC Social Charter 2004 is a regional legal instrument promoting children's rights and wellbeing, linked to a National Coordinating Committee (NCC) set up by SAARC to ensure its implementation.[399]
- Several SAARC Summits have included child trafficking on their agendas, with national leaders committing to combat the problem by strengthening national legislation, establishing a voluntary fund for the rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of trafficking, and encouraging the elaboration of the SAARC Regional Convention on Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.[400]

A recent development has been the 'Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking', facilitated by SAIEVAC in March 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, seeking a renewed commitment by South Asian Member States in the fight against human trafficking.[401] Besides regional level collaboration, bilateral and multilateral cooperation has led South Asian national governments to create mechanisms such as the quadrilateral anti-trafficking working group involving Greece, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, and the trilateral group enlisting the membership of Pakistan, the UK and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which, though not specifically targeting children, aim at combatting trafficking across borders.[402] Significant in the region is a joint experience by the governments of Bangladesh and India in developing a plan of action to facilitate rescue, safe repatriation and reintegration processes relating to trafficked children.[403]

The Cross Border Anti-Trafficking Network (CBATN) is a South Asian regional coalition of NGOs established in 2004 (with representation from ECPAT member groups) to foster coordination and cooperation among South Asian countries to combat human trafficking in the region. CBATN is currently operational in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.[404] The Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) is one more network of NGOs from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka that has been active for several years in cross- border activities.[405]

399 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and UNICEF. Assessment of Progress in the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child (2001-2010). (2011), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/rosa/SAARC_Assessment_report_of_Child_right(1).pdf.
400 See in particular 9th to 18th SAARC Summits at http://saarc-sec.org/SAARC-Summit/7/.
401 South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking, 21-22 March 2017 Bangkok, Thailand. Statement of Commitment. (2017), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/wp- content/uploads/2017/03/Final-Statement-of-Commitment_27-March-2017.pdf.
402 UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. South Asia in Action: Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Child Rights Based Programme Practices. (2008), p. 18, Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/ii_ct_southasia_analysis.pdf.
403 *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.
404 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Cross Border Anti Trafficking Network (CBATN). Accessed on 22 December 2016 from: https://www.unodc.org/ngo/showSingleDetailed.do?req_org_uid=17946.
405 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). South Asia: Mr. Manabendra Mandal, Chairman ATSEC (Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children): a relentless crusader for the right to freedom from exploitation. Accessed on 16 December 2016 from: https://www.unodc.org/southasia//frontpage/2010/october/interview-with-mr-manabendra-mandal-atsec.html.

National level actions

Regional-level responses have been accompanied by a number of steps at the national level. Nepal's National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Children and Women for Sexual and Labour Exploitation, adopted in 1998, has been regularly updated, and the government has formulated a new NPA for the period of 2015-17, adding important elements.[406]

In India, the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children, approved in 1998, was followed a decade later by the Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with Special Focus on Children and Women, encompassing all forms of trafficking, including child sex trafficking. In 2007, the Indian government adopted 'Ujjawala - a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation', which provides community-based interventions aiming to prevent trafficking in women and children.[407] The National Plan of Action for Children 2016 addresses child trafficking as a priority area in the sphere of child protection.[408]

In December 2015, the Supreme Court of India mandated the MWCD to establish a single, nationwide Organised Crime Investigation Agency (OCIA) to combat trafficking, with a focus on investigation, rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked girls.[409] A 2013 key decision of the Indian Supreme Court took cognisance that, in 2011 alone, 90,654 children went missing and 34,406 still remained untraced. In sharp contrast, a mere 15,284 FIRs (First Information Reports, namely, a complaint lodged with the police) were registered and, subsequently, investigations launched.[410] To address such a grave situation, the Court issued a number of directives, including compulsory registration of cases of missing children by the police with the assumption that these are victims of kidnapping and trafficking. The police were further directed to prepare standard operating procedures in all the states of India aiming to deal with the cases of missing children, appoint and train a Special Child Welfare officer to specifically deal with cases of missing children, and maintain records and photographs of recovered children in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

406 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. (2015), p. 16, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://mowca.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mowca.portal.gov.bd/page/6768565c_9b45_4aed_b 390_919a52462d6c/CRC_draft_final_15.6.2015_bn.pdf.
407 Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. UJJAWALA: A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://wcd.nic.in/schemes/ujjawala-comprehensive-scheme-prevention-trafficking-and-resue- rehabilitation-and-re.
408 Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development. National Plan of Action for Children, Safe Children- Happy Childhood. (2016), pp. 44-46.
409 Choudhary, AA. Make Organized Crime Investigating Agency operational by 2016: SC to Centre. The Times of India, 9 December 2015, Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Make-Organized-Crime-Investigating-Agency-operational-by- 2016-SC-to-Centre/articleshow/50111429.cms.
410 Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. Supreme Court of India delivers a landmark judgement on missing children. 10 May 2013, Accessed on 26 December 2016 rom: http://www.bba.org.in/?q=content/supreme-court-india-delivers-landmark-judgement-missing-children. See decision at http://www.bba.org.in/sites/default/files/MissingChildrenJudgement.pdf.

In February 2016, the Sri Lanka Cabinet approved a Five Year National Strategic Plan to Monitor, Combat Human Trafficking (2015-2019), developed by the National Anti-Trafficking Task Force (NTF).[411] The government of Maldives launched its five-year strategic action plan to prevent human trafficking in 2015.[412] Virtually all South Asian countries either have developed specific plans to address child trafficking, or have included child trafficking issues in other plan documents dealing with adult human trafficking or child protection in general. While NPAs continue to appear as potentially adequate tools, their weakness lies mainly in their implementation, often challenged by insufficient resources, low capacity of implementers, poor inter-agency coordination, corruption, political instability and conflicts.[413]

The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) has been adopted by all nations in the region. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children has been ratified by Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and accepted by Bangladesh and Maldives. Only Sri Lanka has developed legal provisions encompassing a definition of child trafficking consistent with the Trafficking Protocol.[414] Bhutan and Sri Lanka alone have adopted legal definitions of child trafficking that do not involve the elements of force, deception, violence or coercion to define trafficking.[415] Although Nepal is the only country in the region having appointed a national rapporteur on trafficking,[416] and Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) acts as a National Rapporteur on human trafficking,[417] all South Asian nations have established a Human Rights Commission or a Children's Commission.[418]

Support mechanisms have been established for children at risk of sexual exploitation in the region, including victim empowerment programmes, outreach activities to create community-based committees (such as the Para-legal Committees in Nepal,[419] the Community Care

411 Office of the Cabinet of Ministers – Sri Lanka. Press briefing of Cabinet Decision taken on 2016- 02-03. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://cabinetoffice.gov.lk/cab/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=49&lang=e n&dID=6554.
412 Asia Pacific Forced Labour Network, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Maldives launches plan to combat human trafficking, content undisclosed. 20 May 2015, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://apflnet.ilo.org/news/maldives-launches-plan-to-combat-human-trafficking- content-undisclosed.
413 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), pp. 46- 47.
414 Penal Code Section 360 (c), Sri Lanka, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=67628.
415 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 53.
416 UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. South Asia in Action: Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Child Rights Based Programme Practices. (2008).
417 Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings. Pakistan. Accessed on 16 December 2017 from: https://www.fightagainsttrafficking.org/participating-countries/pakistan.
418 Save the Children. Stepping Up Child Protection: An Assessment of Child Protection Systems from All Countries in South Asia, Including Reflections from Central Asia. (2010).
419 UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. South Asia in Action. Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Child Rights-Based Programme Practices. (2008), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/500/.

Committees against Trafficking in Bangladesh and the Community Vigilance Groups in India), social welfare and protection schemes to support vulnerable families, and several initiatives to improve birth registration systems in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.[420] National and international non-governmental organisations have been active in combatting child trafficking in the region. A case in point, the 'Reducing Exploitation and Abuse of Children through Strengthening the National Child Protection System (REACH)' project is an effort by Save the Children to protect children from sexual and gender-based violence, physical and humiliating punishment, unsafe migration and trafficking in Bangladesh and in the state of West Bengal of India through a system approach.[421] 'Project WATCH' by Terre des Hommes trains local private detectives in Asia, including in India and Nepal, to track down child sex offenders, gather evidence and share it with the local police. When cases are brought to court, legal assistance is offered to child victims.[422]

Child-friendly investigations and court proceedings

Nepal's Human Trafficking (Control) Act 2007 stipulates that juvenile courts should hold in-camera hearings to protect victims of human trafficking, who may also seek assistance from trained social workers, psychosocial counsellors and government attorneys. It prohibits the publication of confidential information and provides for an interpreter and translator, as needed.[423] Similarly, India's Protocol for pre-rescue, rescue and post-rescue operations of child victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation specifies a set of measures necessary to protect the identity of the victims, such as keeping the child's identity confidential and refraining from publishing personal information in the media. The government has further adopted guidelines for speedy disposal of child rape cases in child-friendly court proceeding, including video conferencing recordings and preventing any forms of proximity of the victim with the accused.[424]

419   UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. South Asia in Action. Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Child Rights-Based Programme Practices. (2008), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/500/.

420 ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 66.

421 Save the Children. Reducing Exploitation and Abuse of Children through strengthening National Child Protection System in Bangladesh (REACH). (n.d.), Accessed on 15 April 2017 from: https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/sites/bangladesh.savethechildren.net/files/library/Child%20Protection-Project%20Brief_REACH_0.pdf.

422 Terre des Hommes Foundation. Project WATCH. Accessed on 16 April 2017 from: https://www.terredeshommes.nl/en/programmes/project-watch.

423 Committee on the Rights of the Child. Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 12, Paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Initial Reports of States Parties due in 2008: Nepal. (2009), CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/1, p. 59, Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.OPSC.NPL.1_en.pdf.

424 United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. Committee on Rights of Child examines reports of India under the Convention and Protocols on Children in armed conflict, Sale of Children. 3 June 2014, Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14663&LangID=E.

Specialised police units have been established in most South Asian countries to deal with human trafficking cases and violation of children's rights, including sexual abuse and exploitation. In the Maldives, the Police Service has established a Family and Child Protection Unit, equipped with staff trained to deal with CSEC cases.[425] In Sri Lanka, Children and Women's Bureau Police Desks, headed by female police officers, are active in 36 locations throughout the country.[426] In Bangladesh, anti-trafficking police units have been established in all 64 districts to assist victims in testifying against traffickers and develop data. Anti-trafficking police units are also established in India and Pakistan.[427] Overall, the region has taken concrete steps to set up an anti-trafficking system, which should, however, be consistently strengthened, including in its capacity to adopt truly child-sensitive approaches in criminal investigations and proceedings of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

3.6 Responding to the sexual exploitation of children

A number of specific actions have been undertaken in the region to support child victims of sexual exploitation. In Pakistan, the Senate passed a bill in March 2016 that criminalises, for the first time, sexual assault against children, child sexual abuse material and trafficking. Similarly, offences relating to child sexual abuse material, which were previously absent from the law, are now punishable by seven years in prison and a fine. The new amendment further criminalises child trafficking within Pakistan, broadening previous provisions punishing only offenders who trafficked children from Pakistan to other countries.[428]

India's Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 (POCSO) seeks to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. POCSO has been hailed as a ground-breaking instrument having several merits, including offering a clear definition of the offences being criminalised and grading punishment according to the gravity of the offence. POCSO makes child-friendly provisions for reporting, recording evidence, investigating cases and trying offenders, hopefully in a speedy fashion thanks to the special courts that have been set up. The main challenge remains effective implementation and follow- up, especially with regard to establishing the required medical and judiciary infrastructure, and training health

425   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 56.
426   Sri Lanka Police Website. Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: http://www.police.lk/index.php/child-a-women-bureau; INTERPOL. Sri Lanka. Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: https://www.interpol.int/Member-countries/Asia-South-Pacific/Sri-Lanka.
427   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 56.
428   Senate passes law against child sexual abuse. Dunya News, 12 March 2016, Accessed on 10 December 2016 from: http://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/327226-Senate-passes-law-against-child-sexual-abuse-.

and law enforcement personnel.[429] The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)[430] is expected to play an important role in the implementation of POCSO, ensuring coherence with children's rights, following up with Indian states on the implementation of the act, managing victim compensation schemes, reporting specific cases and adopting technical guidelines to support the several operations by concerned stakeholders.[431] An interesting development is the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations released by the Government of India in February 2017 to support the rehabilitation and safeguarding of children living on the street.[432]

In some countries where the law addresses the issue of engagement of children in the commercial sex sector, legal provisions tend to protect inadequately boys or older children, in addition to normally disregarding crimes relating to pornography, either online or offline.

ECPAT International has been active in the fight against SEC, promoting more recently work with and in favour of survivors of sexual exploitation in childhood. On 18 November 2016, it held its first-ever Global Survivors Forum for adult survivors of childhood sexual exploitation at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The Forum, coinciding with the 2nd observance of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, offered a platform for survivors to connect and share experiences. The survivor-led Global Survivors Forum was the culmination of 27 local consultations held by ECPAT network members and partners with over 300 survivors from different countries around the world, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan from the South Asia region. The Forum's main recommendation was to develop a global survivors' movement to bring attention to SEC and provide support to survivors. Participants at the Forum endorsed the Bill of Rights for Child-Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, developed by the ECPAT International Secretariat through a consultative process involving children and survivors from several countries.[433]

ECPAT's Youth Partnership Project (YPP) for Child Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in South Asia, in collaboration with Aparajeyo Bangladesh, Sanlaap India and Maiti Nepal, has sought to foster psychosocial change in the lives of affected children. Young CSEC survivors and at-risk youth living in red-light districts, on the streets or in other unsafe places, such as railway platforms, are the key participants in the project. Peer support programmes,

429   Ibid., p. 51.
430   The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 and the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
431   The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Government of India. Accessed on 6 December 2016 from: http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/index.php?lang=1.
432   National Legal Research Desk. Standard Operating Procedure for Protection and Care of Children in Street Situations Launched. 26 February 2017, Accessed on 11 April 2017 from: http://nlrd.org/standard-operating-procedure-for-protection-and-care-of-children-in-street-situations- launched/.
433   ECPAT International. Summary Report: Global Survivors Forum. A Forum for Adults Survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. 18 November 2016, Strasbourg, France.

community awareness campaigns and public advocacy help young survivors to advocate for their rights.[434] Non-government organisations have been offering services for child victims of sexual exploitation across the region. For example, Aparajeyo Bangladesh, an ECPAT partner, has run the 'Women in Prostitution and Children at High Risk of Abuse and Exploitation' project aimed at ensuring protection and an alternative life style for the children of women engaged in prostitution and children at risk by operating a shelter home, a child- friendly centre and other services including psycho-social and legal support.[435] Similarly, Sanaap, an ECPAT partner from India, implements a 'Child Protection Programme' in the red light areas of Kolkata and suburbs, managing drop-in-centres for children at risk where education and health services are offered together with opportunities for developing skills and creativity.[436] In Pakistan, Sahil, an NGO, has been active in the fight against child sexual abuse, focussing on awareness raising among parents, teachers, children, health professionals and law enforcement agencies; data collection on child sexual abuse, abduction and early forced marriage cases; and free legal aid for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.[437]

3.7 Ending child labour to tackle the economic and sexual exploitation of children

An SAARC-level response to child labour is the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Prevention and Elimination of all Forms of Child Labour in South Asia, 2016-2021, developed by SAIEVAC with the overall goal of strengthening systems and institutional capacities to prevent and eliminate all forms of child labour, with a priority on the worst forms.[438] In parallel, all national governments in the region have enacted anti-child labour laws and devised policies to address the issue of labour while promoting universal primary education, through reforms such as India's celebrated Right to Education Act (RTE).[439] Despite a commitment spanning over several years, however, results have been mixed, with legal frameworks relating to child labour and sexual exploitation of children frequently failing to include the entire array of issues, jointly address the double economic and sexual burden present in several forms of child labour and ultimately comply with international legal standards.

434   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 90, Accessed on 21 November 2016 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/ypp_global//index.php.

435   Aparajeyo Bangladesh. Women in Prostitution and Children at high Risk of Abuse and Exploitation. Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: https://www.aparajeyo.org/wip.html.

436   Sanlaap India. Programmes. Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: http://www.sanlaap.org/programmes/.

437   See http://sahil.org/.

438   South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Prevention and Elimination of All the Forms of Child Labour in South Asia 2016-2021. (2016), Accessed on 17 April 2017 from: http://www.alliance87.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SAIEVAC- Regional-Action-Plan-on-Child-Labour.pdf.

439   'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act' or 'Right to Education Act', also known as RTE, is a law of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009, aimed to achieve free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution.

Afghanistan – Afghan law fails to protect children engaged in sexual exploitation comprehensively. The 2009 Elimination of Violence Against Women Act protects girls from forced prostitution, remaining silent, however, on boys. Legislation does not make specific provision to criminally prohibit or increase penalties for the possession or distribution of CSAM. In addition, while the Penal Code foresees increased penalties for sex acts with boys, it does not specifically include the practice of bacha bazi and the associated forms of sexual exploitation.[440]

In the country, the violations connected with child labour include also involvement in the armed conflict, an aspect that policy should carefully address considering that non-state groups, such as the Taliban and Da'esh, recruit children to plant improvised explosive devices, or act as suicide bombers, while the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces have also recruited some children as reported by the UN.[441]

Bangladesh – Child labour is widespread in Bangladesh, a form of exploitation encompassing several occupations including forced begging on the streets through which kidnapping of children by gangs has taken place.[442] The labour law, allowing children over 12 years of age to be engaged in light work that does not endanger their health or interfere with their education, fails to specify the activities or the number of hours per week permitted. Legislation does not penalise the use of children in pornographic performances. Bangladesh formulated a National Plan of Action (NPA) to implement the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010. The 2010 National Education Policy raised the age of compulsory education from grade 5 (age 10) to grade 8 (age 14), an important measure in favour of education and against child labour, which, however, cannot be implemented until it is reflected in an amendment of the existing law.[443]

In 2015, the Government approved the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, which sets the minimum age for domestic work at 14 years. A major shortcoming of the new modest instrument is that it allows in any case children between ages 12 and 13 to be engaged as domestic workers with parental permission, in addition to the fact that the policy is not legally enforceable. The country has not yet ratified ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age for Admission to Employment.[444]

---

440 United States Department of Labor. 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. (2016), p. 61.
441 Ibid., p. 60.
442 Ibid., p. 130.
443 Ibid., p. 131.
444 Ibid., p. 134.

Bhutan – Bhutan legislation has defined no compulsory age for education, while setting the minimum age for work at 13 and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18. The Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan (CCPA 2011) makes specific provisions in the areas of SEC and CSAM. Bhutan has not yet ratified ILO Conventions 182 on worst forms of child labour and 138 on minimum age.[445] Despite Bhutan's Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2013-2018), which commits to strengthening both the child protection system and quality of education, child labour elimination and prevention strategies do not appear to have been integrated into this policy framework.[446]

India – On 26 July 2016, the Indian Parliament passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, seeking to prohibit the employment of children below 14 in all occupations and enterprises. The bill makes, however, a major exception for children who work with their families, allowing this practice by law, though only after school hours. The new law defines children between 14 to 18 years as adolescents and prohibits their employment in any hazardous occupation. It makes child labour a cognisable offence, providing a jail term of up to three years and pecuniary penalties.[447] Several agencies engaged in the fight against child labour have voiced concern over the bill, apprehensive that its provisions will impact children from poorer households. By legitimising child engagement in family work, the law permits more invisible forms of child labour, given that, in home settings, child labour may be harder to detect and monitor.

A Founding Member of ILO, India has been late in embracing ILO Conventions 182 on worst forms of child labour and 138 on minimum age. Defined as a historic step toward defeating child labour, in June 2017, India ratified both conventions, scheduled to enter into force on 13 June 2018.[448] National legislation will now need to comply more stringently with international standards in both contexts of minimum age for employment and hazardous work concerning children.

---

445   Ibid., pp. 172-173.
446   United States Department of Labor. 2013 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. (2014), p.84, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: https://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child- labor/findings/2013TDA/2013TDA.pdf; United States Department of Labor. 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. (2016), p. 160.
447   Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016 passed in Parliament. The Times of India, 26 July 2016, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Child-Labour-Prohibition-and-Regulation-Amendment-Bill- 2016-passed-in-Parliament/articleshow/53402610.cms.
448   Press Information Bureau Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment. Ratification of core ILO Conventions No. on 138 and 182 on Child Labour. (13 June 2017), Accessed on 28 June 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=165604.

India recorded moderate progress in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour with over 35,000 children being rescued in 2015 from hazardous work conditions and rehabilitated by the National Child Labour Project.[449] Child labour and recruitment in armed conflicts intersect with SEC in India, as it does in other war-prone zones of the region. Children are reportedly recruited to serve as soldiers in Maoist armed groups in several Indian states where efforts to address the complexity of the issues involved remain rather ineffective.[450]

Maldives – In Maldives, compulsory education is only up to age 13.[451]

Nepal – Nepal lacks comprehensive legislation on hazardous work prohibited for children, ignoring major occupations such as brickmaking. The 2015 Constitution introduces provisions prohibiting the recruitment of children by armed forces.[452]

Pakistan – In Pakistan, non-state militant groups, such as pro-Taliban insurgents, forcedly engage children in armed conflict, espionage, and suicide attacks, in addition to drug and small arms smuggling across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Despite education being free and compulsory through age 16, access is limited.[453] The Federal and Provincial Governments, with the exception of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have yet to establish a minimum age for employment. The Federal and Punjab Provincial legal frameworks set the minimum age of 15 for hazardous work, thus failing to comply with international law standards. Legal hazardous work prohibitions do not include domestic work. Pakistan legislation does not bar using children for prostitution and is not specific with regard to boys under age 18. It also fails to criminally prohibit the use, procuring, or offering of children in the production of pornography and pornographic performances. Federal and provincial laws do not criminalise the possession of CSAM.[454]

Sri Lanka – In Sri Lanka, the law refrains from regulating employment in third-party he National Child Protection Authority conducted a study into child domestic work, which led to setting up a task force that developed a code of conduct for employment of young domestic workers.[455]

449   United States Department of Labor. 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. (2016), p. 537.
450   Ibid., p. 532.
451   Ibid., p. 669.
452   Committee on the Rights of the Child. Concluding observations on the report submitted by Nepal under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. (2016), CRC/C/OPAC/NPL/CO/1, Accessed on 29 December 2016 from:http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2f OPAC%2fNPL%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en.
453   United States Department of Labor. 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. (2016), p. 804.
454   Ibid., p. 806.
455   Global March against Child Labour and International Labour Organization (ILO). Tackling Child Labour and Protecting Young Workers in Domestic Work: A Resource Manual. (2014), p. 26.

Efforts by national governments as reviewed above have been complemented by initiatives carried out by civil society organisations, which have been particularly active in the fight against child labour. Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), literally Save the Childhood Movement, founded in 1980 by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, symbolises India's grassroots efforts combatting child labour and promoting quality education. BBA claims to have rescued over 80,000 victims of trafficking, slavery and child labour.[456] In 1989, BBA formed the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), and its action has led to shutting down over 170 workplaces employing children in India.[457] Its research work estimated that over 100,000 children go missing in the country each year.[458] In December 2016, the President of India inaugurated the '100 Million for 100 Million Campaign', a global initiative launched by Kailash Satyarthi to involve 100 million youth to be the voice of 100 million children and youth who are voiceless around the world to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children and promote the right of every child to be safe, free and educated over the next 5 years.[459] Further, the Global March against Child Labour and its partner organisations have been long engaged in combatting child labour and advocating for aligning child labour legislation with other progressive laws relating to the protection of children, trafficking and the landmark judgments ordered by the Supreme Court of India.[460]

A recent effort has been the 'Regional Consultation on the SDG Alliance 8.7 - South Asia Launch', organised by SAIEVAC in Thimphu, Bhutan, in July 2016, which helped shed new light on linkages between child labour and violence against children, and identify action points for the region. The event took place within the framework of the ILO-supported SDG Alliance 8.7, which seeks to promote and coordinate efforts toward meeting SDG 8.7, focusing on eradicating forced labour and ending human trafficking globally.

456 Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. About us. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://bba.org.in/?q=content/about-us.
457 Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. Child Labour. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://bba.org.in/?q=content/child-labour; Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. Prosecution. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://bba.org.in/?q=content/prosecution-0.
458 Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. Policy Interventions. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://bba.org.in/?q=content/policy-interventions.
459 Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. 10,000 children and youth, match steps with Laureates and Leaders to demand an end to child exploitation. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://www.bba.org.in/?q=content/10000-children-and-youth-match-steps-laureates-and-leaders- demand-end-child-exploitation; Government of India, President's Secretariat. President of India Launches '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign. Press Information Bureau, 11 December 2016, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155277.
460 Global March against Child Labour. Annual Report January-December. (2014), p. 14.

3.8 Making children resilient to sexual exploitation during humanitarian emergencies

The commitment to mitigating the effects of climate change that is growing in the region does not normally consider the side effects of natural catastrophes on children specifically. For example, the Disaster Management Act of India (2005) makes no provision for the special needs of children at risk of or affected by disasters. District disaster management plans fail to disaggregate age-specific data to enable an accurate targeting of children. The government has yet to recognise heat or cold waves as a calamity despite populations living in slums, on the streets and in makeshift rural dwellings being more exposed to extreme weather conditions. Disaster preparedness in the region is still in its infancy, both in policy and on the ground.[461] As the attention grows toward creating resilient communities, a special focus will need to be placed on the special vulnerabilities of children, in the course of both policy and programme development.

In the realm of conflicts, a significant initiative has been undertaken by the Afghan government, which, in January 2011, signed an action plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). In 2014, a road map was endorsed to accelerate the implementation of the action plan. Unfortunately, no additional progress was reported toward fulfilling the goals of the action plan to address the practice of bacha bazi by Afghan security forces.[462]

---

461   Save the Children and PWC. Forgotten voices. The world of urban children in India. (2015), p. 11.
462   United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), pp. 66-68.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY, PROGRAMMING AND EVIDENCE BUILDING

Section 4 concludes the report by proposing a set of recommendations for actions to respond to the gaps that still persist in South Asia in addressing the multiple and complex problems affecting children who are victims or at risk of sexual exploitation. The recommendations proposed, organised thematically according to the pattern adopted in previous sections, are addressed to government and non-governmental actors responsible at both national and regional levels for protecting children and ensuring that no more violations of children's rights occur in South Asia. Section 4 finally merges with the Conclusion, which argues in favour of adopting an organic and preventive approach in tackling the sexual exploitation of children in the region. The recommendations are further distilled in *A Summary of recommendations to address child sexual exploitation in South Asia,* available in 'Annex 1'.

4.1   Strengthen child protection and participation systems

Build inclusive governance processes

To be inclusive, South Asian nations and local communities – villages and increasingly towns and cities – must take into consideration the needs of children in ongoing planning processes.[463] Children moving in and out of cities, travelling, migrating or trafficked, are a group that local government institutions, mandated to develop several social sector programmes in the region, should start recognising as their own constituencies and targeting with disaggregated data collection and evidence-based responses. Similarly, children living in so-called illegal settlements should be regarded as entitled residents and included in local planning. Millions of South Asian children living on the streets, in sweatshops, in train and bus stations, or hidden in affluent homes as 'servants', in shanty huts as child brides, in brothels as 'sex workers', visible or invisible as they might be to the public eye, should be counted and engaged in policy-making. Local governance systems must recognise that these are the citizens who most need accurate planning, for being at highest risk of the worst violations of their rights.

Involve young people in planning for their protection

Participatory planning with children should be promoted to allow young citizens to become involved in decision-making processes concerning their lives, and contribute to tackling problems with child-centred solutions. Young people should be involved in planning child-friendly online and offline environments, and contributing to designing protection, education and healthcare services and solutions to make ICTs safe.

---

463   Save the Children et al. The South Asian Report on the Child-friendliness of Governments. (2013).

Promote child budget analysis and development

To keep children protected, it is necessary that a fair share of existing resources be invested in their wellbeing and safety. National and local governments should carry out budget analyses to evaluate initiatives that have been most impactful and effective in employing resources for children. They should assess existing expenditure patterns to measure the share of resources allocated for children's programmes and finally make the political decision of investing public resources in a way commensurate with the child population and its needs.[464] Budget analysis processes can take place most effectively at the local governance level, where planning can feasibly address issues affecting specific communities, and participation by children is feasible.

Budgets for children do not need to emerge as independent financial documents. They may indeed be more effective when they are developed as a component of established municipal and national government budgets. Special budget allocations to keep children safe from sexual harm may be linked to NPAs and incorporated in existing child protection, education, health, law enforcement or public transport budgets.[465]

Give child survivors a voice

Ways will need to be found to involve child survivors of sexual exploitation to help them progressively overcome the trauma and gain agency. Children who have been victimised should know that they are citizens and that they have rights. They should be given opportunities to speak out and be involved in designing programmes and services intended to help them undertake the way to recovery. Being able to be listened to and influence decision-making is particularly important for children who have had their rights severely violated. Establishing the agency of survivors would be a powerful step toward achieving the awareness necessary to recover and protect oneself from re-victimisation.[466]

Participatory recovery practices with survivors should carefully consider when and how best to involve the child to ensure that the process is authentic and does not lead to further traumatisation.[467] It should be appreciated that all survivors have been victimised and all victims can to empowered to survive the trauma because all children have a right to bounce

---

464 Overall, investments for children continue to be inadequate in the Region. For example, India – home to 472 million children in the age group of 0-18 years, accounting for nearly 39 per cent of the nation's population – has allocated for children a mere 3.32 per cent of its Union Budget 2017-18, earmarking resources virtually at the same levels of the previous fiscal year, despite new commitments made such as those within the framework of the SDG. Centre for Child Rights. Union Budget: A Window of Opportunity for Our Children? Budget for Children 2017-18. (n.d.), Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://www.slideshare.net/HAQCRCIndia/union-budget-a-window-of-opportunity-for-our-children.

465 With regard to child-friendly budgets visit: UNICEF. Child Friendly Cities. Accessed on 11 January 2017 from: http://childfriendlycities.org/?s=budgets; Save the Children and HAQ Centre for Child Rights. Budget for children analysis. A beginners' guide. (2010), Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/3134.pdf.

466 ECPAT International and Children's Environments Research Group (CERG). Placing children's voices at the heart of organisations that serve them. Lessons from governance with children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. (2016), p. 6.

467 Ibid.

back and undertake the journey from violation to recovery.[468] The local level is the ideal setting in which to involve children, especially victims who may need to communicate in a language, environment and culture that are perceived as safer and closer to them. While only a select group may be able to participate in high level national or global events, all children should have an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the communities where they live.[469]

Develop policy frameworks to enhance the protection of children's rights
SAARC nations should prioritise the issue of SEC in their political agendas. Critical problems, especially of a transnational nature, such as child trafficking or OCSE, can be more effectively addressed through bi-lateral and region-wide dialogues.

Over the past couple of decades, all countries in the region have been adopting National Plans of Action (NPA) for children, which regularly include child protection initiatives. In the future, national governments should strengthen such tools that, critical in providing comprehensive policy frameworks and ensuring coherence among a variety of different activities, have tended, however, to be rather weak with regard to implementation, monitoring and follow-up. NPAs should progressively incorporate urgent issues that have been ignored so far, such as the sexual exploitation of children in the context of ICT, travel and tourism, child marriage, child labour, climate change, conflicts, urbanisation and unsafe migration.

Monitor implementation and measure progress
Government accountability toward tackling SEC is still limited in the region and progress made in this realm seldom measured. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda provides a global reference framework for measuring progress toward ending SEC at local, national and regional levels. The SDGs offer an unprecedented opportunity to develop national and regional-level indicators, data gathering, management systems and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress in programme and policy implementation toward tackling SEC.

SAARC may consider creating a benchmark for a region-wide monitoring framework by carrying out a violence against children (VAC) analyses based on an epidemiological methodology. VAC deserves to be treated as a public health emergency, requiring solid data collection and management systems,[470] defined action plans and time-bound objectives to seek systemic solutions.

468 CAP International and Apne Aap. The Last Girl First. Second World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls. New Delhi, 29-31 January 2017, Accessed on 2 February 2017 from: http://lastgirlfirst.strikingly.com/.

469 ECPAT International and Children's Environments Research Group (CERG). Placing children's voices at the heart of organisations that serve them. Lessons from governance with children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. (2016), p. 6.

470 UNICEF. Protecting Children from Violence: A comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF's strategies and programme performance. (2015), p. 69.

The knowledge base built by technical agencies, such as ECPAT, should be translated into context-specific information and tools to make it relevant to national and sub-national level actors engaged both in government and civil society bodies (including ECPAT network member organisations), which can use data and analysis to develop policies, devise programme instruments and plan actions in specific areas under their jurisdiction.

Make child protection institutional arrangements
Although efforts have been underway in the region to establish a formal child protection sector by introducing new institutions and structures, the reality is that such a process is just in its initial phase and time will be necessary for a comprehensive child protection system to be operational in all countries. In the meantime, it is necessary to make interim arrangements for existing governmental and non-governmental institutions, especially those operating on the ground, to act as child protection mechanisms. Schools, anganwadi and preschool centres, primary health care units, marriage registrar offices, police stations and local government institutions (LGI) should be equipped to work together to form a safety net to shield children from harm. Converging existing systems and investments around the broad concern of violence against children would make it possible to progressively institutionalise efforts addressing sexual violence against children in the government structure, and pave the way toward building a child protection sector that addresses sexual abuse and exploitation of children as a priority.

Support and expand child helplines
SAARC/SAIEVAC should ensure that the various child helplines and tracking systems for missing children active in the region be streamlined into one single regional platform to create a single-window approach to preventing and controlling domestic and trans-border movements of unaccompanied, trafficked, migrating and runaway minors. Initiatives, such as the ILO/DFID project 'Work in Freedom', should be evaluated and scaled up to specifically address the needs of underage migrants, track their routes and ensure full protection at source, transit and destination points.[471]

Universalise access to identification documents
From birth, every person has a human right to obtain identification documents necessary to ensure that all children are counted and, consequently, recognised as citizens entitled to safety and protection. Birth registration and the issuance of identity cards are important instruments in acknowledging the child's existence, and committing parents and the state to take responsibility for the child's wellbeing. The role of birth certification may have never been more crucial to South Asian children than it is now as the region prepares itself for large-scale migration. National and local governments should give birth and marriage registration offices, municipal offices and schools the responsibility of recording a child's name, residency and status, and contributing to tracing their whereabouts as they move out of their administrative jurisdiction and change residence.

---

471 International Labour Organization (ILO). Joint ILO/DFID project. Work in Freedom: Preventing trafficking of women and girls in South Asia and the Middle East. (2013), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/projects/WCMS_217626/lang--en/index.htm.

Reinvigorate collaboration with the private sector

The growing South Asian private sector needs to take additional responsibility for combatting the sexual exploitation of children, especially in business areas that are more associated with this risk. The various private sector enterprises that directly or indirectly operate in realms associated with SEC may contribute to preventing and tackling the problem by cooperating with the government tourism departments, NGOs and other actors. Companies should be engaged in identifying new ways to channel some of the substantial resources that they are planning to invest in the social sector toward protecting children from all harms.

4.2 Equip the region to face the mounting OCSE challenge

In preparing to deal with the growing threat of OCSE, South Asia should be guided by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kate Gilmore, who stated that: "The challenge of creating a safe online environment for children lies in finding a balance between maximizing the potential of ICTs while minimizing risks and ensuring children's safety and protection – without thereby hampering other rights including freedom of expression."[472] In seeking a balance between children's protection and individual freedoms, action to combat OCSE should be mounted on a number of allied fronts.

Frame effective legal and policy frameworks to make all forms of OCSE illegal

In developing sound responses to OCSE, policy should clearly distinguish abusive online behaviour between children from online sexual exploitation of children. Most peer-to-peer, risky and harmful online behaviours by children do not constitute a criminal offence and should be addressed by protecting and educating young users, balancing protection and privacy, and ensuring equitable participation in the Internet. OCSE, instead, requires solid legal provisions, supported by reliable law enforcement and responsible involvement by ICT companies.[473] In the context of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, ratified by all SAARC countries, governments should progressively strengthen regulations to control SEC and pass hard laws regulating the impact of business on human and children's rights. Specific norms and specialised investigation techniques are required to stop technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation, also learning from those EU Member States where investigations have resulted in landmark rulings establishing that child sexual exploitation through the Internet is tantamount to rape of a child.[474]

472   United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. New digital technologies produce unprecedented levels of child abuse material online. (2016).

473   UNICEF India. Child Online Protection in India. (2016), Preface.

474   European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online. Work Package 2 – Strategic Assessment of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. (2013), Online Public Version Prepared by the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), p. 7, Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/efc_strategic_ assessment_-_public_version.pdf.

While Sri Lanka is the only country to have ratified the Council of Europe's Budapest Convention on Cybercrime 2001 (Budapest Convention), instruments such as the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) of 2007, which introduces the offence of "knowingly obtaining access, through information and communication technologies, to child pornography", together with the Budapest Convention and the OPSC, provide South Asia with international criminal law benchmarks for framing and coherently implementing anti-online child sexual exploitation legal frameworks and policies.[475] All countries in the region should develop national policy on online access and online safety for children through inclusive processes involving governments, the private sector, civil society and children. Law and policy should focus on uniform terminology, the full range of crimes against children in both online and offline environments, the misuse of ICT for criminal purposes, hacking of computers and other non-consensual uses, and the behaviour of children who rely on ICTs to carry out abusive or bullying acts. Self-regulatory mechanisms should be set up for the ICT industry, including codes of conduct relating to child safety online, by drawing on established standards such as those set in the Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection, framed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN agency specialised in information and communication technologies, in collaboration with UNICEF.[476]

Child protection platforms, such as SAIEVAC, should guide the drafting of legal and policy frameworks aiming to tackle OCSE, learning from successful experiences in other parts of the world. Governments, international organisations and NGOs should work together toward the harmonisation of national legal and policy frameworks on SEC off- and online, the effective implementation of the law to prosecute child sex offenders and assuring access to compensation for child victims.

Adopt effective extraterritorial legislation and extradition mechanisms
Considering the transnational nature of the exploitation of children in online as well as offline settings, it is extremely important to have in place effective extraterritorial legislation and extradition mechanisms for the prosecution to establish extraterritorial jurisdiction over a crime committed outside the State's borders.[477] Unfortunately, in many countries the application of extraterritoriality is hampered by a number of procedural obstacles. Specifically, double criminality is often required for certain sexual offences against children. This implies that extradition can only take place if the offence for which the person is sought by the requesting State is also punishable under the law of the requested State. Countries should adopt legislation that enables them to establish and exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction without the criterion of double criminality.

---

475   Ibid., p. 10.
476   International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UNICEF. Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection. (2015), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/csr/files/COP_ Guidelines_English.pdf.
477   Lynch, D; Tucker, K; Widner, K. Emory University School of Law. Improving Offender Accountability in CSEC Cases: Tools for Investigating and Prosecuting Adult Exploiters. (2012), pp. 6-9, Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/Improving%20 Offender%20Accountability%20in%20CSEC%20-%20Emory%20Law.pdf.

Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies

Law enforcement authorities, together with specialised agencies active in the region, will need to be adequately trained to face ever new challenges, especially in the context of constantly evolving online techniques devised to defy prosecution, such as anonymisation, encryption and anti-forensic tools, including, for example, 'wiping' software or operating systems (OS) run from removable media.[478] Vitally important is to strengthen the capacity to conduct accurate victim identification. Law enforcement authorities need to be equipped to carry out a combination of image analysis and traditional investigative methods. Law enforcement agencies will need to engage with INTERPOL for identifying websites spreading CSAM and include information in INTERPOL's 'worst of' list. They should further gather data on cybercrimes against children and make it available for policy development and counteraction.

Child protection and law enforcement personnel should be trained on how to rescue and assist victims of sexual abuse and exploitation online. Crises centres may be established in police stations and in hospitals to provide integrated responses to victims of OCSE. As policy and legal safeguards become more stringent in setting rules to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, law enforcement agencies in South Asian should track traditional exploiters to ensure that they do not migrate to digital spaces to pursue sexual abuse-related activities in a safer online environment.[479]

Make ICTs child-safe

Regional and national-level child protection initiatives should promote online safety, along with the ITU-UNICEF cybersecurity guidelines among policymakers, the industry, educators, parents and young people.[480]

The private sector industries should contribute to developing codes of conduct, training employees and engaging customers in adopting child protection tools. Internet Service Providers (ISPs), in particular, should take responsibility and play an active role in keeping the Net free from child sex offenders. ICT companies should be encouraged to develop techniques to 'follow the money', in order to track down and disable businesses thriving on child sexual exploitation. Legislation should be developed to mandate Cloud service providers to report CSAM when illegal materials are stored by their customers.[481]

---

478   Europol. The Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2016. (2016), p. 31.
479   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Latin America. Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 11, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Latin%20America%20(English).pdf.
480   International Telecommunication Union (ITU). United Nations. COP Guidelines. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/guidelines.aspx; International Telecommunication Union (ITU). United Nations. Child Online Protection. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/default.aspx.
481   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 70.

P2P file networks, the main platform for accessing child abuse material and non-commercial distribution, should be regularly monitored to ensure that mid-level offenders acting in those environments are prevented from carrying out encrypted P2P transfers safely.[482] It will also be important to monitor URLs, paying special attention to 'banner sites' or free hosting services which are most commonly used for such illegal trade.[483]

Network level parental controls should be promoted with the involvement of Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Wi-Fi hotspots mushrooming in the towns and cities of South Asia should adopt mechanisms to support accreditation of child-friendly Wi-Fi zones. Rigorous age verification and identity verification processes should be established to enable secure billing relationships between vendors and customers in the context of e-commerce and online payment methods to protect children in particular. The issue of OCSE should be progressively included in the broader child protection work carried out by the helplines and hotlines run in most countries of the region.

Leverage ICT to make them child-friendly

If making the digital environment child-safe is necessary, reactive responses alone are not sufficient. ICT should be fully leveraged to work as a tool for empowerment. Governments, civil society, schools and children themselves, supported by the ICT sector, should partner to rely on ICT to achieve universal primary education, increase access to healthcare, track missing and trafficked children, connect young people (particularly those living in peripheral areas), and provide channels for young people's participation through comprehensive, integrated approaches.[484] Online child sexual exploitation should be progressively included in public health policies and sexual education programmes, also as an entry point on such issues, which are often regarded as sensitive in some South Asian cultures.

While most of the countries of the region rank among those where Internet censorship and surveillance is assessed as "pervasive",[485] combatting OCSE should not be used as an excuse for censoring the Internet. National governments should ensure that protection is not confused with control, so that filtering and tracking the Net for illicit content does not amount to restricting the enjoyment of children's rights. Countries should contribute to making the Web a conducive space where children can socialise freely and raise voices against violations of their rights.

481   ECPAT International. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society. (2014), p. 70.

482   European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online. Work Package 2 – Strategic Assessment of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. (2013), Online Public Version Prepared by the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), p. 8

483   Ibid., p. 12.

484   UNICEF. Child protection in the digital age. National responses to online child sexual abuse and exploitation in ASEAN Member States. (2016), Accessed on 8 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_in_the_Digital_Age.pdf.485 Wikipedia. Internet censorship and surveillance by country. Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_censorship_and_surveillance_by_country.

485   Wikipedia. Internet censorship and surveillance by country. Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_censorship_and_surveillance_by_country.

Raise awareness

By being constantly exposed to pornographic material on the Internet, adolescents risk forming a surreal idea of sex. Awareness generation should be the hallmark of all efforts intersecting ICT and child protection in the region. At a deep level, parents and teachers should help young people develop a positive and healthy idea of sexuality, promoting sexual education that stresses the importance of emotions as opposed to sexual performance. On the other hand, they should be helped to understand the risks children run using ICTs, and become aware of safe Internet practices. Evidence suggests that awareness-generation activities are most efficiently targeted at parents to help them identify symptoms of abuse, characteristics of abusers and existing reporting mechanisms.[486] In situations of peer-to-peer abuse, it is important to enhance children's understanding of the risks involved in online communication and build their resilience to such situations. Where the perpetrators are the child victim's peers, it is necessary to educate them on the harm that they can cause and the criminal nature of such acts.[487]

Strengthen existing child protection systems to cope with OCSE

UNICEF analysis has found that the international response in the fight against OCSE must be matched with local action to be truly effective, to ensure that existing child protection systems are strengthened and equipped to cope with new online threats. Although the technological dimension expands, along with the potential reach of perpetrators from local to global, child protection systems should build on existing knowledge and frameworks to address the online dimension of child sexual exploitation. The local response framework should count on coordination mechanisms and establish clear responsibilities with regard to reporting and referral among relevant actors including families, service provides, and law enforcement, in addition to local Internet service providers (ISPs) and the technology industry.[488] Reporting mechanisms should be designed in such a way to make them child-friendly and easily accessible to parents, teachers and other adults responsible for protecting children.

Deepen the understanding of OCSE through research and analysis

The substantial information and research gaps about OCSE in the South Asia need to be filled as a first step toward mobilising evidence-based action in this rapidly changing realm. Data would help raise the visibility of the issue in decision-making arenas and among the public at large. Research, monitoring and evaluation activities should be coordinated in order to progressively build coherent and comparable databases in the region for use by policy-makers, law enforcement agencies, the private sector and users.

Research would be necessary to gauge the unique challenges that a region historically characterised by low formal education levels is likely to face in undertaking a rapid transition

486 UNICEF. Victims Are Not Virtual: Situation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia. (2016), p. 14.
487 Ibid.
488 Ibid.

toward achieving verbal and digital literacy simultaneously.[489] Research should analyse issues relating to the improper and excessive use of the Internet; risky online behaviours by children and adults; and forms of SEC online linked to offline behaviour, and vice versa. An additional focus should be made on understanding how to protect children as a result of ICTs both online and offline, with a special attention for those who, for economic and social reasons, are more prone to sexual exploitation in both contexts. Furthermore, it would be relevant to orient research activities toward innovative ways to use technologies to empower children with the help of handheld electronic devices (PDAs) or smartphones, and specialised apps collecting real-time data on school dropout rates, child marriage, unsafe migration and other risk factors of sexual exploitation of children.

4.3 Stop child sex offenders on the move

Conceive multi-stakeholder responses
The complexity of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) may be one of the reasons behind the limited initiatives taken so far to address the problem in the region. As the result of an array of different causes, it requires that relevant stakeholders act together toward a common goal, taking into consideration interrelated problems underpinning SECTT, such as the improper use of ICTs, child labour, poor education, gender discrimination, increased mobility, poverty and disparity. The first step toward placing SECTT on regional and national agendas for children, therefore, is to create a cross-sectoral partnership including government, private sector, NGO and civil society actors. Collaborative mechanisms should be developed both within and between counties in the region to share information and intelligence among law enforcement agencies. As corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a growing reality in South Asia, it would be relevant to assign specific responsibilities to the private sector as a primary player in a multi-partner collaboration to combat SECTT.[490]

Step up evidence-based advocacy efforts leveraging 'The Global Study'
Presently, it would be strategic to keep up the momentum gained by the launch of the first Global Study on SECTT, promoted by an international collaboration of committed agencies in 2016,[491] and draw the attention of South Asian nations to the issues highlighted internationally as well as regionally in order to deepen the understanding of SECTT in each specific context.

489 See for example the Digital India campaign launched by the Government of India in July 2015. Wikipedia. Digital India. Accessed on 24 April 2017 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_India.

490 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016), p. 45.

491 ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. (2016). See also the companion volume focusing on South Asia: ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia. (2016).

Appreciating the problem in its multiple dimensions and ensuring that information is generated on a regular basis are necessary preconditions for advocacy in the SECTT area. Geographical areas known for a proliferation of prostitution and the sexual exploitation of children, along with popular routes followed by travelling child sex offenders, should be regularly monitored and information made available to the public in order to discourage investors as well as tourists.

Adopt a two-pronged strategy to tackle SECTT
A two-pronged strategy is necessary to tackle SECTT in order to simultaneously protect children from all forms of harm connected with travel and tourism, on the one hand, and ensure that travel and tourism practices take child protection into account, on the other. Tourism development plans should be accompanied by child rights impact assessments in order to inform the framing of measures aiming to protect local children in the context of travel and tourism. In parallel, children's plans should include SECTT among the issues targeted.

Include the issue of SECTT within existing policies
SECTT needs to be included holistically, as well as highlighted as a special concern in existing and future initiatives oriented to child protection on a regional and national level. While linkages should to be established conceptually and programmatically between SECTT and other forms of sexual exploitation of children, SECTT should be understood as a distinct issue requiring specific responses in order to address it as an area of specialisation within broader child protection policy and programme design.

Strengthen monitoring and evaluation
The sporadic and unstructured reporting of SECTT in the region is not normally based on policy assessment and cannot be used as a reference for regular evaluation of programme implementation. Monitoring and evaluation of ongoing efforts should be strengthened in order to enhance understanding of efficient programming and provide a baseline for future strategy development.

Advocate for SECTT to be addressed in national legislation
Given the double national and transnational nature that SECTT can take, it is important that policies and laws are harmonised among countries in the region, and within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international law and standards, to overcome inconsistency in terminology, including who constitutes a tourist/traveller.

SECTT should be treated as a separate offence in legislation relating to violence against children, in a manner similar to exploitation of children through prostitution or sexual abuse. Travelling with intent of sexual abuse/exploitation of a child and the attempt to do so should be addressed in comprehensive legislation on SECTT.

Ensure extraterritorial jurisdiction

Extraterritorial jurisdiction is an important instrument in tackling SECTT. It enables an offence committed by a traveller or a tourist abroad to be handled as an offence within borders. This mechanism allows foreign child sex offenders who sexually exploit children in South Asia to be convicted in their country of origin. Laws should consider prosecution of sexual exploitation a non-bailable offence, a provision that would have stronger repercussions with regard to SECTT-related crimes.[492] As the offender could leave the country after release on bail, prosecution would be solely dependent on extraterritorial jurisdiction. Both tourist-receiving and tourist-sending countries should develop legislation to specifically address SECTT.

However, considering that the existence of extraterritorial legislation varies among countries, domestic legislation should be prioritised in cases when the country in question has developed laws and procedures that are consistent with human rights standards and has demonstrated a capacity to effectively implement the law. Such an approach would ensure that witnesses and forensic evidence are accessed in the country where the offence has taken place, thus helping child victims testify without travelling long distances, cutting down on bureaucratic steps and shortening the time necessary to achieve successful prosecution.[493]

South Asian countries should equip their justice systems to effectively foster victim participation and testimony. In addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation offences, arrangements should be made to provide child-friendly procedures.[494]

Build evidence relating to SECTT to inform policy and action

Data relating to SECTT is extremely poor in the region. Comparable data should be collected and analysed to build an evidence base on which to develop policy, programmes, monitoring, advocacy and awareness generation activities. Robust data would help incorporate SECTT initiatives in mainstream child protection programming.

Promote awareness raising and education campaigns

There is still a very limited understanding of SECTT in the region, among government and non-government child protection agencies, the travel and tourism industry, and communities at large. It is necessary to make all concerned actors aware of this grave problem through awareness generation, education and orientation activities. The general public, and children in particular, should be adequately informed and educated to prevent SEC offences, especially in locations most affected by SECTT.

492   ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. (2016), p. 74.

493   ECPAT International. Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions and Answers. (2008), p. 32.

494   ECPAT International. Power, Impunity and Anonymity. Understanding the Forces Driving the Demand for Sexual Exploitation of Children. (2016), p. 79.

4.4 Address sexual abuse and exploitation of children in child marriage

Conceptualise CEFM as a form of SEC

Within the framework of international law, child and early marriage should be conceptualised as a form of forced marriage, slavery and forced labour and, as such, recognised as a route to and a form of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.[495] Laws, policies, programmes and awareness generation activities should recognise these fundamental principles and reflect them in action targeting specifically sexual violence in child marriage, with both preventive action to avert new early unions and support to girls who are already victims of premature marriage.

Deepen the understanding of SEC in the context of CEFM

The region should make an effort to expand anti-child marriage analysis beyond the sphere of reproductive and sexual health to also encompass child protection issues, including sexual abuse and exploitation of children. In addition to quantitative data, in-depth research is required to capture the social and cultural drivers leading to CEFM and orient policy development toward transforming discriminatory social and sexual norms.

Strengthen CEFM legal frameworks

South Asia should make a resolute commitment to addressing the critical child marriage issue persisting in virtually all countries of the region by addressing key shortcomings in national legislation, making the provision of the law known, strengthening enforcement and introducing penalties harsh enough to deter violations.

Governments have a non-derogable obligation to initiate the reform of discriminatory personal laws and progressively harmonise religious, customary and local laws with formal laws. They should offer a secular alternative that is consistent with human rights standards, allowing individuals to enter marriage with free, full and informed consent, in accordance with their age, gender and condition. Implementation and prosecution mechanisms require substantial strengthening.[496]

Furthermore, legislation should be reformed to ensure that illegally and forcefully contracted unions can be annulled and victims provided the necessary support to seek justice, especially in cultural settings where they face social ostracism. Law that criminalises sex with a girl below a statutorily established age should expand its scope to also protect child brides. Policies and laws that protect victims of rape, corporal punishment, labour exploitation and other forms of physical, psychological and sexual violence should extend protections to children who are victims of such crimes in the context of marriage.

---

495   ECPAT International. Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage. (2015).
496   Center for Reproductive Rights. Child Marriage and Personal Laws in South Asia. (2014).

In systems such as Pakistan and India, it is important to strengthen coordination between federal and provincial/district levels in order for the national law and policy to be effective in local constituencies.[497] At the local level, local government institutions, birth and marriage registration offices, the police, schools, religious authorities, and children's and women's groups should be supported in working together and monitoring attempts by families to marry underage daughters and preventing any child marriage through means of dissuasion and resorting to the law.[498] Reporting is especially important when underage weddings take place in secret, or outside the country. The provisions of child marriage and allied laws should be known to the public at large and in particular to adolescent girls and boys, parents and elderly in the family, community and religious leaders, local government representatives and teachers.

Enforce anti-child marriage law by empowering and monitoring local systems

Concrete steps should be taken in the region to strengthen birth and marriage registration as necessary measures to implement minimum marriage age provisions. Both public and religious systems need to be adequately supervised to ensure that especially the poorest communities, where child marriage prevalence is highest and access to services lowest, are provided with free and effective birth, marriage, divorce and death registration services as part of a comprehensive civil registration and vital statistics system. It will be necessary to advocate with marriage registrars, especially in cases in which the law allows for marriage below 18 years at the discretion of the Registrar of Marriages.[499]

The appointment and the performance of religious authorities should be monitored to encourage them to act as a barrier for underage marriages. For example, in Bangladesh, the local Member of Parliament (MP), who has the authority to recommend the appointment of the Kazi, may be empowered to ensure that the religious leader refrains from registering Muslim weddings of individuals below the legal age.[500]

Foster gender transformative approaches

An action complementary to the implementation of the law will be the transformation of social and sexual norms to make them gender-sensitive. Education, information and communication activities should be organised addressing issues relating to child marriage, the dowry system, adolescent sexuality and sexual violence against children to progressively bring about a cultural shift, while in parallel expanding education and economic opportunities, especially for girls. In particular, effective action aimed at relieving parents of girls from the burden of paying a dowry price would help significantly reduce the pressure on poor families to marry off their daughters as young as possible.

497   he Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia. (n.d.).
498   Center for Reproductive Rights. Child Marriage and Personal Laws in South Asia. (2014).
499   The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia. (n.d.).
500   International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Child Marriage in Southern Asia. (2013), p.15.

Men and boys should be made a special target of preventive efforts to eradicate child marriage, acting on the new generations, on the one hand, and community leaders – typically male – on the other, through collective analysis, awareness generation and training activities.[501] Faith-based organisations can play an important role in addressing child marriage and other forms of SEC from the perspective of social norms.

Build community-level preventive mechanisms

Gender resource centres, women self-help groups and other similar mechanisms should be employed to prevent child marriage at the community level. Action should focus on enumerating at-risk adolescent girls residing in the locality and following up with them to ensure that they remain in school and out of both marriage and labour until the attainment of majority age. Extra incentives should be provided for girls to help them continue education up to secondary level.

Although they may not be freed from the marriage knot, CEFM victims should be supported to fulfil their rights and avail themselves of services accessible to young people their age. In particular, they should be encouraged to go back to school after marriage and child bearing, and access child protection and reproductive and sexual health services available to unmarried peers without discrimination due to their status. Teachers should be motivated to welcome and support married children in their classes and regularly report school dropout to authorities.[502]

4.5 Stop trafficking to prevent the sexual exploitation of children

Foster interagency cooperation

National governments, law enforcement authorities, social service organisations, non-governmental bodies and international agencies should make all efforts to improve coordination and avoid overlapping in their anti-trafficking initiatives.[503]

In order to improve cross-border activities, SAARC member countries should agree on definitions and terminology, and accordingly align national legal and policy frameworks with international conventions and protocols. A consensus should be reached on legal definitions of terms such as 'child' as well as 'abuse and exploitation of children through prostitution', 'CSAM' and 'trafficking'. Regional levels platforms, primarily SAARC and SAIEVAC, are necessary to promote inter-country collaboration and cooperation within South Asia, and between South Asia and other regions. All SAARC countries in the region should appoint a national rapporteur on trafficking following the example of Nepal that has established this institution since September 2015.

---

501   Ibid.
502   Naveed, S and Butt, KM. Causes and Consequences of Child Marriages in South Asia: Pakistan's Perspective. (2015), South Asian Studies, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 161 – 175 (p. 173).
503   Lannon, J and Halpin, EF. Plan Asia Regional Office. Responding to Cross-Border Child Trafficking in South Asia, An Analysis of the Feasibility of a Technologically Enabled Missing Child Alert System. (2013), p. 30.

Devise comprehensive responses to multiple needs

Victims should be able to access a comprehensive set of services.[504] Awareness generation activities alone, the most common focus of trafficking work presently pursued in South Asia, are unlikely to solve the problem and efforts should be intensified in establishing systems aimed to identify, rescue, protect and reintegrate victims, in addition to preventing trafficking from occurring in the first place. Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), and more specifically victims of trafficking, should benefit from all-round support, including best interest determination, appointment of a legal guardian, family tracing and reunification, as relevant.[505]

Strengthen data management

Data relating to missing children, including trafficking victims, should be maintained and stored in such a way to prevent unauthorised access by traffickers, child sex predators and other criminals, who may use it to access vulnerable children both online and offline.[506] The thriving IT and IT enabled service (ITES) sector has the technical capacity of building an effective child trafficking response system. There is a need to engage further ICT companies in helping the government prevent trafficking, as well as tracking trafficked victims and traffickers.[507]

Universalise access to identification systems

Birth certificates and identification documents should be made available to all children in the region. The universal introduction of birth certificates and ID cards is a precondition for ensuring the traceability of unaccompanied and separated children and promoting safe migration. Ways should be found to assess how new systems, such as the recent Aadhar scheme, could be employed in anti-trafficking efforts.[508] Aadhar has a huge potential in a country like India where trafficked and missing children are many and birth registration is not yet a universally fulfilled right, although progress in this area has been commendable.[509]

504   UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. South Asia in Action: Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Summary Report. (2008), p. 22, Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: www.unicef-irc.org/publications/501/.

505   International Organization for Migration (IOM). Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis. Evidence and recommendations for further action to protect vulnerable and mobile populations. (2015), p. 12.

506   Lannon, J and Halpin, EF. Plan Asia Regional Office. Responding to Cross-Border Child Trafficking in South Asia, An Analysis of the Feasibility of a Technologically Enabled Missing Child Alert System. (2013), pp. 57-58.

507   Ibid., p. 62.

508   The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), through the UID (Universal ID) programme started in 2010, provides an Aadhar card to each citizen, including children, containing demographic and biometric information, with the objective of improving the delivery of government services. Zelazny, F. Center for Global Development (CGD). The Evolution of India's UID Program: Lessons Learned and Implications for Other Developing Countries. (2012), CGD Policy Paper 008, Accessed on 11 January 2017 from: http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1426371.

509   Birth registration trends have been positive in India, showing consistent improvements over the years, although a gap of about 11.2 percent of unregistered births still emerges in latest available data (2014). Office of the Registrar General, India. Ministry of Home Affairs. Vital Statistics of India Based on the Civil Registration System 2014. (2016), p. 42, Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://crsorgi.gov.in/web/uploads/download/crs2014_final_29112016.pdf.

Prioritise prevention

Given the entity of the problem and the limited success achieved so far in overcoming it, governments should re-orient policies toward prevention. As an initial step, government agencies should systematically establish the identity of local populations by registering births, administering citizenship and nationality, and issuing identity documents. Local government institutions may ensure that such interventions are intensified especially in remote communities prone to human trafficking.[510]

As local communities become progressively aware of the risks connected with child trafficking, they should be helped establish local vigilance and child tracking mechanisms, and link them to existing law enforcement structures.[511] At a deeper level, targeted interventions are necessary to assist poorly resourced families and strengthen their capacity to adequately protect and educate their children, and keep them away from early marriage and child labour.

Protect victims from prosecution for crimes committed as a result of being subjected to trafficking

Victims of trafficking should be protected from the hardship suffered as a result of the crime, including situations which expose them to committing crimes themselves. In cases in which trafficking victims have records for crimes committed as a result of being subjected to trafficking, the government should take measures so that such records are vacated or expunged.[512]

Promote child-friendly investigations, court proceedings and recovery

Countries in the region should carry out child-sensitive investigations and court proceedings. They should assure legal aid, psychosocial support and protection interventions to victims and assistance to child witnesses.

Child victims need to be supported in recovering from the devastating effects of trafficking and connected forms of sexual exploitation in the sex industry, child marriage or child labour. Policies focussing on recovery and reintegration of trafficking and SEC victims should include both short- and long-term strategies in order to achieve full child protection. Urgent support services would encompass medical and psychological care, and the provision of adequate shelter and legal assistance. Medium- to long-term assistance would help children recover from the trauma, reunite them with their families and communities, reintegrate them into the education system and ensure that they acquire sufficient skills to progressively achieve economic self-reliance.

510   United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), p. 15.
511   UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. South Asia in Action: Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Summary Report. (2008).
512   Ibid., p. 27.

Reinforce training and capacity building

To enhance its ability to tackle child trafficking, the region should strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, the judiciary, responders and other relevant personnel, and ensure that they reach a common understanding of trafficking-related crimes and legal provisions.

4.6 Take resolute steps against the sexual exploitation of children

Amend legislation to ensure the equal protection of boys and girls

Efforts should be reinvigorated to ensure equal rights before the law for all children. South Asian nations should update and expand laws, and amend definitions relating to exploitation of children through prostitution; sexual abuse, exploitation and violence against girls; trafficking of women and girls; and rape, making sure to explicitly include the protection of boys as well.

Ensure legal recognition and protection of children as both victims and witnesses

Ensure that all relevant legislation recognises and protects children who are subjected to sexual exploitation as both victims and witnesses. The law should establish that a child shall not be considered a consenting participant in any SEC-related offences. Consent should never be debatable in cases of sexual exploitation of children, with special attention to Bhutan where consent is not yet defined in the law.

Promote effective reporting mechanisms

Efforts should be undertaken to develop child and gender-sensitive reporting mechanisms for children and others to report cases of suspected, occurring and past occurrences of sexual exploitation of children both off and online.

Establish protective mechanisms for reintegrating victims

Victims of SEC should be supported in undertaking a recovery process to enable them to bounce back to a healthy life. Children can be empowered to act as proactive participants in the design of recovery services and help peers who have experienced the same trauma.

Protect the privacy of victims

Responses to SEC should be designed and implemented, taking into consideration the point of view of children, especially victims. Facilitators, counsellors and other professionals involved must exercise caution in respecting the child's privacy and unique vulnerabilities.[513] They should prevent generating secondary trauma outcomes in processes implying sharing of experiences by survivors. They should further ensure that children who disclose the harm they have suffered are immediately assisted and removed from any harmful situation.

---

513   ECPAT International and Children's Environments Research Group (CERG). Placing children's voices at the heart of organisations that serve them. Lessons from governance with children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. (2016).

Create mechanisms to ensure child-safe organisations

All countries in the region should ensure that minimum standards of care and protection be established and enforced in institutions assisting children, following the models experimented with by Bhutan, India and Nepal. Stringent monitoring and supervision should be key components in the management of children's homes.

4.7 Combat sexual exploitation in the context of child labour

Understand new forms of child labour leading to sexual exploitation

New research should be undertaken to analyse the impact on SEC of the significant economic, social and technological transformations underway in the region, in order to identify evolving causal effects and plan preventive action.

Mitigate the adverse effects of rapid economic growth on the protection of children

Through research and monitoring activities, the region should enhance its understanding of domestic work and other occupations that most expose children to sexual abuse and exploitation, in order to clarify the linkages between child labour and the sexual exploitation of children.

Sound data should guide nations enjoying unprecedented wealth in making the necessary reforms and investments to protect weak sections from the counter effects of economic growth and enhance education opportunities. Evidence building and policy analysis should help governments, together with trade unions, appreciate the nature of the problem and develop more stringent regulations over businesses and occupations that engage children.[514] It should enhance the understanding of the economics of child labour in order to effectively penalise exploitative employers through the cancellation of licenses, sealing of factories and establishments, confiscation of property and other disincentives.

Ratify international conventions and harmonise domestic with international law

All countries of the region, under the leadership of SAARC, should take a common stand against trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children in front of the international community by ratifying the Palermo Protocol. They should also agree to eradicate child labour by unanimously ratifying ILO Conventions 138 (to establish minimum age for admission to employment – Bangladesh and Bhutan, in particular) and 182 (to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including hazardous occupations such as those relating to sexual exploitation and domestic labour – Bhutan specifically).

Nepal should harmonise domestic law with ILO Convention 182 by raising the minimum age for involvement in hazardous work to 18, in addition to reforming existing legislation to make it

---

514   Global March against Child Labour. Economics Behind Forced Labour Trafficking. Comprehensive Case Studies of Child Domestic Labour and Commercial Sexual Exploitation. (2014), p. 48, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://globalmarch.org/images/Economic-Behind-Forced-Labour-Trafficking.pdf.

comprehensively prohibit all types of hazardous work. It should further make primary education compulsory by law and institute severe penalties to deter violations of child labour law.

Having ratified the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Pakistan should take effective steps to prohibit the recruitment and use of children by non-state groups for armed conflict, as a way to also protect them from sexual exploitation taking place in that specific context. It should further set a minimum age for employment and harmonise such standards with the compulsory education age.

Bangladesh should harmonise domestic law with international standards by establishing a minimum age for employment. Legal minimum age protections should apply also to children engaged in the informal sector, including domestic work.

Bhutan would need to carry out a national child labour survey to assess the extent of the problem. It should take concrete steps to make primary education compulsory and harmonise universal education policies with the minimum age for work.

It would be necessary for the law to equally criminalise the use of female and male children in all forms of child labour, especially the worst ones such as SEC. It is also critical that laws clearly prohibit the employment of children in the production, distribution, sale or trade, sharing, use, possession and storing of pornographic material and performances, online as well as offline, especially in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.[515]

Laws and policies, primarily in Afghanistan, should include a definition of child trafficking that does not require an element of force or coercion in different stages of human trafficking. The law should also prevent re-victimisation of children in human trafficking and other worst forms of child labour, and ensure that affected children are correctly identified as victims and not detained. Reporting processes relating to child labour should be simplified and should allow oral complaints.

Strengthen the application of the law
Citations and penalties for labour law violations should be duly enforced and monitoring mechanisms strengthened to achieve transparent and effective implementation. The police, the judiciary and labour inspectors should be provided with sufficient resources to address violations relating to child labour, child trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children. Individuals who have violated the law by exploiting children in the context of armed conflict should be prosecuted.

Achieve universal primary education as the primary antidote to child labour
Recognising the increased mobility of children living in the region, schools should equip themselves to respond to the needs of a floating population, with flexible learning methodologies

---

515   United States Department of Labor. 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. (2016).

and curricula and trained teachers to be able to attract and retain students, and prevent dropout and involvement in exploitative forms of labour. Multilingual teaching would be necessary, along with supplementary support and culturally sensitive education curricula relevant to first-generation learners. User-friendly school hours would further ensure that education programmes adjust to the requirements of both boys and girls, especially to allow them to continue schooling beyond the primary level.

A primary objective is to re-orient policy and foster education throughout secondary education. Priority should thus be given to very young adolescents, those younger than 14 years, the age when school dropout begins to accelerate.

Schools should work as the institution of reference for tracking children as they are relocated from rural to urban or from urban to urban areas. Education policies should drop bureaucratic requirements for proof of residence or birth certification for school enrolment. Schools should monitor students to ensure that they safely transfer from the school of origin to the school of destination. School authorities should act as primary duty-bearers in fulfilling the children's rights to an identity, in addition to the universal right to education.

4.8 Build safe spaces for children affected by emergencies

To limit the impact caused by the increasing number of environmental disasters, it is necessary to modify planning practices in both urban and rural areas in order to integrate flood and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into regular planning and service delivery functions performed by the local government. Governments and specialised agencies should extend technical assistance and strengthen the resilience to climate change of individuals, communities and public and private organisations to protect child victims of displacement and unsafe migration. Emergency measures, including safe havens, should be extended to child victims of environmental and humanitarian crises to protect them from trafficking, early marriage and other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

SAARC/SAIEVAC may help share good practices within the region to facilitate the learning process by rural and urban people's representatives. Children should be involved in learning how to defend themselves from environmental threats at home, in school and in the community, including keeping safe and preventing sexual abuse in various settings.

Efforts are necessary to make public areas safer, in particular by building safe zones for women and girls during humanitarian emergencies.[516] In addition, steps should be taken to provide safe transport facilities for girls to reach school and other destinations, establish user-friendly helplines for girls and women to report and seek help when they are victims or at risk of abuse and violence, and sensitise law enforcement and the public about the importance of safety for women and girls.

---

516   International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). Child Marriage in South Asia: Realities, Responses, and the Way Forward. (2013), p. 14.

CONCLUSION: Adopting a preventive and organic approach to combating the sexual exploitation of children in South Asia

There has been a tendency in the region to deal with the broad and complex issue of SEC through a rather narrow lens, focusing on the various dimensions of the problem, such as child abuse, exploitation or neglect, in isolation. Policymakers and programme managers in the government and non-government sectors have been equally prone to viewing and addressing child protection in silos. Specific manifestations of a multifaceted but single problem have thus artificially been addressed through many stand-alone policy and programme interventions. Issues concerning often simultaneously entire groups of deprived children have been clinically dissected to address independent typologies of beneficiaries, with the result that field interventions have been independently targeting 'street children', 'child workers' or 'sexually exploited children', as if these were separate, discrete categories. A vertical, often bureaucratic view of child protection programming has failed to recognise that vulnerabilities are often multiple and concentrated on the same groups of poor and marginalised children. The fragmented programme responses emerging from such an approach risk being both partial and inefficient.

An additional challenge affecting the child protection field has been the lack of comprehensive research, investments, policy development and services to the point that it may be fairly premature to speak in terms of a full-fledged child protection sector institutionalised in government systems in South Asia. While a number of significant initiatives have started over recent years, protection tends to remain an underdeveloped sector in the government, as nations in the region are still struggling to achieve universal health and education goals, viewed as higher priorities. As a result, the South Asian child protection agenda can be regarded as still in its infancy, with the specific issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation remaining at the periphery of the policymaking debate.

Organisations engaged in the areas of child rights and protection have been increasingly feeling the need for South Asian countries to start conceiving formal child protection frameworks and investing in policies, budgets and plans in order to organise the existing plethora of isolated initiatives into structured national and regional child protection systems. Furthermore, the promising legal frameworks and policies that have been devised by several governments in the region require being further matched with robust implementation mechanisms in order for statements of intent to be turned into effective action.

If systemic change is to be achieved, it is necessary for governments to take leadership in the child protection sector, overcoming the present situation where civil society organisations are burdened with a primary service delivery role in a number of areas the government has hardly entered – child sexual abuse and exploitation being one of them. SAARC nations should finally take on the responsibility of addressing the problem of child protection as a national priority by developing and institutionalising a child protection sector in government structures. This will ensure that the new generations of South Asians – presently accounting, as highlighted in this report, for the bulk of victims of children's rights violations globally – gain access to consistent and reliable protection services, thus overcoming the present situation in which they depend on fairly unpredictable and unsustainable project-based interventions managed by poorly funded civil society organisations.

Only an organic strategy will make it possible to overcome the fragmentation currently characterising child protection responses, and develop a comprehensive service structure available to all children – and not only to victims. From such a perspective, the issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation will cease to be treated as a niche problem and will be viewed in the context of vulnerabilities affecting children across a range of multiple manifestations. Not only a limited number of specialised non-governmental organisations, but also a wide array of stakeholders will converge on one single, wide-ranging agenda placing child sexual abuse and exploitation at the core of efforts. Child protection professionals will be supported by specialists in the areas of health, education, judiciary, law enforcement, technology and social communication to be able to identify comprehensive solutions for children who are at-risk or victims of sexual abuse and exploitation for being out of school, in early marriage, in child labour, on the streets, missing, have run away, in red-light districts, migrating, travelling, residing in areas prone to child trafficking, or just accessing the Internet without adequate safeguards.

Working on the basis of a common holistic platform for action would have a number of significant advantages compared to the dominant ad-hoc, uncoordinated project-oriented approach. It would orient efforts toward the development of strategic plans, as opposed to framing stand-alone, unrelated projects. It would help set a range of interrelated strategic goals, as opposed to a number of unconnected project targets. It would also allow for the definition of a medium- to long-term time horizon, as opposed to short-term timeframes normally possible in the context of project work. Such a programme architecture would be structured at the national, regional and local levels, thus ensuring a logical programme implementation and monitoring flow from the centre to the periphery and back.

Expanding the breadth of the programme design would permit the application of the principle of subsidiarity in entrusting responsibilities to key stakeholders. Within a multi-layered programme structure, it would be possible for the duty-bearers who are closer to children, such as families, local communities, service providers, and local government institutions, belonging to both formal and informal child protection systems, to assume clearly defined

roles in ensuring that no child suffers any forms of abuse or violence. Complementarily, government bodies and other national and regional institutions and technical agencies would be assigned tasks that, based on size, strategic purpose and organisational nature, could be more effectively and efficiently managed at the central level.

In such a holistic set-up, specialised interventions designed to prevent and combat child sexual abuse and exploitation would find the kind of coherence that they are lacking at present. An overarching strategy would, in fact, provide broader goals and monitoring mechanisms to which different projects could contribute through their own specific targets and activities.

An organic approach would finally provide a common framework for financing more ambitious efforts by converging budgets and making economies of scale possible. Above all, a coherent child protection strategy would allow for multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral solutions to a problem that is invariably multi-faceted and multi-dimensional. A methodological shift of this nature would help players primarily concerned with issues relating to sexual abuse and exploitation of children to position such concerns in the context of a wider child protection agenda, establishing the necessary linkages with allied processes in the fields of child health, education and security.

Overall, a holistic vision for child protection in the region should include a distinct preventive dimension. The annual thematic report by the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, presented at the 31st session of the Human Rights Council on 8 March 2016, focused on the issue of demand.[517] The SR has argued that, while it continues to be important to assist children who have suffered sexual abuse and exploitation, it is critical to stop those individuals, groups and underlying forces that make the victimisation possible. The analysis and recommendations contained in the report call for a need to reconceptualise responses to sexual exploitation of children from a preventive perspective as well. Both technical and ethical considerations need to be made when scaling up a region-wide counterattack to SEC and embracing a preventive perspective. South Asia has sufficient technical capacity, economic means and wisdom to be able to stop its children from being violated, thus substantially contributing to the global agenda to end violence against children.

---

517 UN Human Rights Council. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. (2015), Thirty-first session, UN Doc. A/HRC/31/58, Accessed on 30 December 2015 from: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/294/64/PDF/G1529464.pdf?OpenElement.

Annex 1

Summary of recommendations to address child sexual exploitation in South Asia

Develop a SAARC strategy to address SEC at regional, national and local levels

- Frame a multi-sectoral comprehensive Regional Strategy to address SEC off and online with the involvement of SAARC/SAIEVAC at the regional, national and local levels within the framework of relevant international and regional human rights instruments, the SDG agenda, and other policy and law enacted by South Asian nations. The objective of the SEC Regional Strategy will be to progressively tackle SEC by setting time-bound measurable goals, identifying responsibilities at various levels, harmonising national legal frameworks with international law, coordinating action among an array of stakeholders and strengthening inter-country coordination especially in the context of extraterritorial jurisdiction. The strategy should be implemented through a multi-stakeholder effort involving the government, law enforcement agencies, the private sector, civil society organisations, communities and children.

- The SEC Regional Strategy should be reflected in National Plans of Action for Children to enable actions addressing SEC to converge with activities in other sectors, in particular primary education; early childhood care and development; public, mental, and sexual and reproductive health; and justice for children.

Build evidence

- Build a comprehensive evidence base within the framework of the SEC Regional Strategy to inform policy in the context of international legal standards and the SDG targets. Research activities should be designed coherently with monitoring and evaluation systems in order to be able to compare information across different datasets and SAARC countries. Data gathering should be oriented toward measuring the prevalence of child sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse material, SEC in the online environment, child trafficking and unsafe child migration, with special attention to variables relating to age, gender, cultural characteristics and evolving social, economic and technological trends connected with the rise in the region of technological penetration, mobility and migration, urbanisation and market liberalisation.

- Critical data gaps will need to be filled with special reference to the relationship between online and offline exploitation, sexual abuse and exploitation of boys and infants (the latter group especially on the Internet), and the agency of children in contributing to curbing SEC in various forms of peer-to-peer abuse as well as in becoming resilient to harm through both physical and virtual contact.

Monitor policy implementation and measure progress

- Use evidence to contribute to achieving SDG targets 16.2, 5.2, 5.3 and 8.7 relating to SEC in the context of the SEC Regional Strategy by agreeing on a set of critical regional indicators and establishing coordinated monitoring mechanisms at the local, national and regional level to measure progress, inform policy development and raise the visibility of SEC-related issues in the government, the private sectors and local communities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

7th Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities Held in Islamabad. Radio Pakistan, 2 August 2016, Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.radio.gov.pk/02-Aug-2016/saarc-dg-s-of-immigration-meet-in-islamabad.

A bill against corporal punishment. Pakistantoday, 14 March 2013, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/03/14/a-bill-against-corporal-punishment/.

Aarambh India. *#DisconnectTheAbuse: India's 1st Internet Hotline is Now Live*. Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://aarambhindia.org/disconnecttheabuse-indias-1st-internet-hotline-now-live/.

ActionAid. *Over 4 in 10 women in India experience harassment before the age of 19*. 25 November 2016, Accessed on 3 January 2017from: https://www.actionaidindia.org/over-4-in-10-women-in-india-experience-harassment-before-the-age-of-19/.

Advocate Pun Devi Maharjan "Sujana" v. Government of Nepal & Others, Decision No. 7981, N.K.P. 2065, Vol. 6, at 751, (2008) (unofficial translation done by the Center for Reproductive Rights).

Anti-Slavery International. *Behind Closed Doors: Child and Early Marriage as Slavery*. (2015), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2015/b/behind_closed_doors_child_marriage_as_slavery.pdf.

Aparajeyo Bangladesh. *Women in Prostitution and Children at high Risk of Abuse and Exploitation*. Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: https://www.aparajeyo.org/wip.html.

Asia Pacific Forced Labour Network, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. *Maldives launches plan to combat human trafficking, content undisclosed.* 20 May 2015, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://apflnet.ilo.org/news/maldives-launches-plan-to-combat-human-trafficking-content-undisclosed.

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). *Child Marriage in Southern Asia: Context, Evidence and Policy Options for Action. Policy Brief Child Marriage in South Asia*. (n.d.), Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: https://www.afppd.org/Resources/Policy-Brief-Child-Marriage-in-South-Asia.pdf.

Association for Social Justice & Research [ASJR] v. Union of India & Others, W.P. (Crl.) No. 535/2010, Delhi H.C. (2010).

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). *ASEAN Human Rights Declaration*. 19 November 2012, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: https://www.seapa.org/wp-content/uploads/ASEAN-HUMAN-RIGHTS-DECLARATION.pdf.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. *10,000 children and youth, match steps with Laureates and Leaders to demand an end to child exploitation*. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://www.bba.org.in/?q=content/10000-children-and-youth-match-steps-laureates-and-leaders-demand-end-child-exploitation.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. *Child Labour*. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://bba.org.in/?q=content/child-labour.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. *Policy Interventions*. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://bba.org.in/?q=content/policy-interventions.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. *Prosecution*. Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://bba.org.in/?q=content/prosecution-0.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan Save the Childhood Movement. *Supreme Court of India delivers a landmark judgement on missing children*. 10 May 2013, Accessed on 26 December 2016 rom: http://www.bba.org.in/?q=content/supreme-court-india-delivers-landmark-judgement-missing-children. http://www.bba.org.in/sites/default/files/MissingChildrenJudgement.pdf.

Balbierz, P. *Hijras: The Battle for Equality*. World Policy, 29 January 2014, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: http://www.worldpolicy.org/blog/2014/01/29/hijras-battle-equality.

Begum, S; Donta, B; Nair, S; Prakasam, CP. *Socio-demographic factors associated with domestic violence in urban slums, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India*. (2015), Indian Journal for Medical Research, Vol. 141, pp. 783-788, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://icmr.nic.in/ijmr/2015/june/0605.pdf.

Bengal nursing home owners held in child trafficking racket. Indian Express, 5 March 2017, Accessed on 6 April 2017 from: http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/mar/05/bengal-nursing-home-owners-held-in-child-trafficking-racket-1577733.html.

Bhagat, RB. International Organization for Migration (IOM). *World Migration Report 2015, Urban migration trends, challenges and opportunities in India*. (2016), Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/WMR-2015-Background-Paper-RBhagat.pdf.

Billah, M. *The state of the girl child in Bangladesh*. The Independent, 17 October 2016, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: http://www.theindependentbd.com/printversion/details/64199.

Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement. *Under the radar: Internally displaced persons in non-camp settings*. (2013), Accessed on 21 December 2016 from: https://www.brookings. edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Under-the-radarIDPs-outside-of-camps-Oct-2013.pdf.

Brown, G. mobileYouth. *Young people, mobile phones and the rights of adolescent*. (n.d.), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/pdfs/Young-People-mobile-phones-and-the-rights-of-adolescents.pdf.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), *U.S. predators use video games to lure Canadian kids*. The Huffington Post Canada, 2 April 2013, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/04/02/canada-internet-luring-video-games_n_2997128.html.

Centre for Child Rights. Union Budget: *A Window of Opportunity for Our Children? Budget for Children 2017-18*. (n.d.), Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://www.slideshare.net/HAQCRCIndia/union-budget-a-window-of-opportunity-for-our-children.

Center for Reproductive Rights. *Child Marriage and Personal Laws in South Asia*. (2014), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from:http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/Earlyforcedmarriage/NGOs_Individuals/CRR1.pdf.

Center for Reproductive Rights. *Child Marriage in South Asia International and Constitutional Legal Standards and Jurisprudence for Promoting Accountability and Change*. (2013), Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: https://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/ChildMarriage_BriefingPaper_Web.pdf.

Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Financial Intelligence Unit. *Light a Million Candles Campaign*. (2007), Circular No. 8, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://www.cbsl.gov.lk/pics_n_docs/09_lr/_docs/directions/fiu/All_FIU_Circulars_2007.pdf.

Centre to block online content on child abuse. The Hindu, 25 September 2016, Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/Centre-to-block-online-content-on-child-abuse/article14998942.ece.

Chandramouli, C. Registrar General & Census Commissioner. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. *Census of India 2011. Rural Urban Distribution of Population. Provisional Population Totals*. (2011), Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/paper2/data_files/india/Rural_Urban_2011.pdf.

Chandramouli, C. Registrar General & Census Commissioner. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. *Census of India 2011. Child Sex Ratio in India*. (2011), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/child_sex_ratio_-_presentation_by_census_commissioner.pdf.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016 passed in Parliament. The Times of India, 26 July 2016, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from:http://timesofindia. indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Child-Labour-Prohibition-and-Regulation-Amendment-Bill-2016-passed-in-Parliament/articleshow/53402610.cms.

Child trafficking racket busted in North Bengal. Hindustan Times, 20 February 2017, Accessed on 6 April 2017 from: http://www.hindustantimes.com/kolkata/child-trafficking-racket-busted-in-north-bengal/story-AJZxbSUaTFeYwlsnMwi01H.html.

Child protection officer in West Bengal sells 17 children, held. Mid-Day.com, 5 March 2017, Accessed on 6 April 2017 from: http://www.mid-day.com/articles/child-protection-officer-in-west-bengal-sells-17-children-held/18047186.

Child Wise Australia. *Don't Let Child Abuse Travel Campaign*. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://ethics.unwto.org/content/campaign-child-protection.

Choudhary, AA. *Make Organized Crime Investigating Agency operational by 2016: SC to Centre.* The Times of India, 9 December 2015, Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: http://timesofindia. indiatimes.com/india/Make-Organized-Crime-Investigating-Agency-operational-by-2016-SC-to-Centre/articleshow/50111429.cms

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). United Nations. *Joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices*. (2014), CEDAW/C/GC/31-CRC/C/GC/18, Accessed on 11 January 2017 from: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/ UNDOC/GEN/N14/627/78/PDF/N1462778.pdf?OpenElement.

Committee on the Rights of the Child. *Concluding observations on the report submitted by Nepal under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*. (2016), CRC/C/OPAC/NPL/CO/1, Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.as px?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPAC%2fNPL%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en.

Committee on the Rights of the Child. *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 12, Paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Initial Reports of States Parties due in 2008: Nepal*. (2009), CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/1, Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.OPSC.NPL.1_en.pdf.

Cooper, A. *Sexuality and the Internet: Surfing into the new millennium*. (1998), CyberPsychology & Behavior, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 187-193.

CWIN and ECPAT Luxembourg. *Preparatory Study for Situational Analysis of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Nepal. A Preliminary Report January 2015*. (2015),

Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: http://ecpat.lu/sites/default/files/resources/Nepal_Preparatory_Study_CSEC.pdf.

CWIN Nepal. C*WIN Campaign on Protecting Children Online in Nepal*. Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://www.cwin.org.np/index.php/programme-of-actions/cwin-campaign-on-protecting-children-online-in-nepal.html.

CWIN, Nepal. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: https://www.cwin.org.np/index.php/programme-of-actions/cwin-campaign-on-protecting-children-online-in-nepal.html.

Dash, J. *American man arrested in India for online child porn, police probe trafficking links*. Thomson Reuters Foundation, 19 January 2017, Accessed on 24 January 2017 from: http://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-children-pornography-idUSKBN1532J9.

DARA and the Climate Vulnerable Forum. *Climate Vulnerability Monitor 2010. The state of the climate crisis*. (2010), Accessed on 9 January 2017 from: http://daraint.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/CVM_Complete-1-August-2011.pdf.

Datt, G; Ravallion, M; Murgai. R. *Poverty reduction in India: Revisiting past debates with 60 years of data*. VOX CEPR's Policy Portal, 26 March 2016, Accessed on 6 December 2016 from:http://voxeu.org/article/revisiting-poverty-reduction-india-60-years-data.

Davidson, JC and Martellozzo. E. *Protecting Vulnerable Young People in Cyberspace from Sexual Abuse: Raising Awareness and Responding Globally*. (2008), Police Practice and Research: An International Journal, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 277-289.

Margaret de Monchy. *Evaluation of the UNICEF Bangladesh Child Protection Programme 2012-2016*. UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office. (September 2016), Accessed on 17 August 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/Final_CP_Evaluation_Report_Bangladesh_2016-002.pdf.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). United Nations. *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2017*. (2017), Accessed on 20 January 2017 from: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/2017wesp_full_en.pdf.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). United Nations. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, Highlights*. (2014), ST/ESA/SER.A/352, Accessed on 5 December 2016 from: https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/publications/files/wup2014-highlights.Pdf.

Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab. Government of India. *Panchayati Raj System in Independent India*. (n.d.), Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://www.pbrdp.gov.in/documents/6205745/98348119/Panchayati%20Raj%20System%20in%20Independent%20India.pdf.

Developing Internet Safe Community Foundation. *Safer Internet Day 2014*. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://discfoundation.com/safer-internet-day-2014/.

Developing Internet Safe Community Foundation. *Law Enforcement Event at Delhi*. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://discfoundation.com/law-enforcement-event-at-delhi/.

Dhawan, H. *Alappuzha 4th in surfing child porn*. The Times of India, 23 January 2017, Accessed on 24 January 2017 from: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/alappuzha-4th-in-surfing-child-porn/articleshow/56725317.cms.

Dréze, J and Sen, *A. An Uncertain Glory. India and Its Contradictions*. Penguin Books, London (2013).

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). United Nations. *Overview of Natural Disasters and their Impacts in Asia and the Pacific, 1970 – 2014*. (2015), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Technical%20paper-Overview%20of%20natural%20hazards%20and%20their%20impacts_final.pdf.

Economic and Social Council, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. *Report on the 57th session (4-15 March 2013)*. (2013), E/2013/27-E/CN.6/2013/11, Accessed on 29 December 2016, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2013/27&referer.

ECPAT International and Children's Environments Research Group (CERG). *Placing children's voices at the heart of organisations that serve them. Lessons from governance with children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation*. (2016), Accessed on 8 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PLACING-THE-PERSPECTIVES-OF-CHILDREN-at-the-HEART_Thematic-Report.pdf.

Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children. *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*. Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg 28 January 2016. (2016), Accessed on 15 April 2017 from: http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/docpdf/terminologyguidelines.pdf.

ECPAT International and Religion for Peace. *Protecting Children from Online Sexual Exploitation. A Guide to Action for Religious Leaders and Communities*. (2016), Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: https://rfp.org/sites/default/files/pubications/Protecting%20Children%20from%20Online%20Sexual%20Exploitation_0.pdf.

ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Regional Report: South Asia*. (2016), Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SECTT_Region-SOUTH-ASIA.pdf.

ECPAT International, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. *Offenders on the move. Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.* (2016), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from http://globalstudysectt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Offenders-on-the-Move.pdf.

ECPAT International. *1st World Congress – 1966*. Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://ecpatinternational.org/ei/Global_worldCongressI.asp.

ECPAT International. *Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions and Answers*. (2008), Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Deterrence Management to Keep Children Safe from Sexual Exploitation*. (2013), Journal Series, no. 6, Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/ecpat_journal_april_2013.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Bangladesh*. (2011), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Pdf/A4A_II/A4A_V2_SA_BANGLADESH.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Pakistan.* (2011), Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/A4A_V2_SA_PAKISTAN.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Nepal*. (2011), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Pdf/A4A_II/A4A_V2_SA_NEPAL.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: India*. (2011), Accessed on 5 December 2016 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Pdf/A4A_II/A4A_V2_SA_INDIA.pdf.

ECPAT International. *High Level Meeting on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals Relating to Violence against Children in South Asia*, Press Release, Accessed on 18 August 2017 from: http://www.ecpat.org/news/high-level-meeting-implementation-sustainable-development-goals-relating-violence-against-0/.

ECPAT International. *Power, Impunity and Anonymity. Understanding the Forces Driving the Demand for Sexual Exploitation of Children*. (2016), Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/PowerImpunityandAnonymity.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism. An ECPAT Training Resource Kit*. (2008), Accessed on 17 April 2017 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/ECPAT_CST_Code_Toolkit.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Strengthening Laws to Combat Sexual Exploitation of Children*. (2008), Accessed on 7 January 2017 from http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/Legal_Reform/ Legal_Instrument_En_Final.pdf.

ECPAT International. *Summary Report: Global Survivors Forum. A Forum for Adults Survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*. 18 November 2016, Strasbourg, France.

ECPAT International. *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Latin America. Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society*. (2014), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/ Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Latin%20America%20(English).pdf.

ECPAT International. *Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage*. (2015), Accessed on 11 January 2017 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/Child%20Marriage_ENG.pdf.

ECPAT International. *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia: Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for civil society*. (2014), Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/ Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_South%20Asia.pdf.

ECPAT Sri Lanka. *Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children Online (SECO) and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT)*. Accessed on 14 April 2017 from: http:// ecpatsrilanka.org/seco-sectt/.

ECPAT UK and ECPAT International. *Make-IT-Safe*. Peer Expert Training Project. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://www.make-it-safe.net/index.php/en/.

Eirienne, AK. *Child Sex Tourism: 'Us' and 'Them' in a Globalized World*. (2009), Inquiries Journal, Vol. 1, No. 11, Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/a?id=34.

Ellis, P and Roberts, M. World Bank Group. *Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia: Managing Spatial Transformation for Prosperity and Livability. South Asia Development Matters*. (2016), Accessed on 11 December 2016 from: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/ handle/10986/22549/9781464806629.pdf.

End Violence against Children, The Global Partnership. *Global Fund to End Violence Against Children Announces Its First Grant Awards to 15 Projects Making the Internet Safer for Children*. 10 April 2017, Accessed on 16 April 2017 from: http://www.end-violence.org/fund_ announcement.html.

End Violence against Children, The Global Partnership. *Pathfinding Partners*. Accessed on 14 April 2017 from: http://www.end-violence.org/pathfinding.html.

Equations and ECPAT International. *Unholy Nexus: Male Child Sexual Exploitation in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa*. (2008), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.equitabletourism.org/stage/files/fileDocuments316_uid10.pdf.

Equations and Vikas Samvad. *Exploitation of Children in Tourism. Child Sexual Abuse & Child Labour in Tourism in Madhya Pradesh*. (2013), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.equitabletourism.org/files/fileDocuments2875_uid24.pdf.

Equations. Child and Tourism. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.equitabletourism.org/tourism_details.php?AID=60&year=2015&tab=1.

Equations. *Migrant Children in Goa.* (2015). Contribution to the Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism.

Ethirajan, *A. Bangladesh bans corporal punishment in all schools*. The BBC News, 9 August 2010, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-10921139.

European Commission, Migration and Home Affairs. *A Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online*. Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/global-alliance-against-child-abuse_en.

European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online. *Work Package 2 – Strategic Assessment of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.* (2013), Online Public Version Prepared by the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/efc_strategic_assessment_-_public_version.pdf.

Europol. *The Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2016*. (2016), Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/internet-organised-crime-threat-assessment-iocta-2016.

Export.gov. *Bangladesh - Information and Communication Technology*. Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: https://www.export.gov/article?id=Bangladesh-Information-and-Communication-Technology.

Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings. *Pakistan*. Accessed on 16 December 2017 from: https://www.fightagainsttrafficking.org/participating-countries/pakistan.

Fighting human trafficking with technology. Microsoft APAC News Center, 22 June 2015, Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: https://news.microsoft.com/apac/2015/06/22/fighting-human-trafficking-with-technology/#sm.001fzdmrz160bfeuqji2r0z48ka86#oVQfTOFml5QJHkif.97

Foundation for Institutional Reform & Education (FIRE). CAN: Children and Netiquette. Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://childprotectionindia.com/can.php.

Frederick, J. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia. A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses. Innocenti Working Paper*. (2010), p. 6, Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/iwp_2010_02.pdf.

Frederick, J; Basnyat, M.; Aguettant, JL. Terre des Hommes Foundation. *Trafficking and Exploitation in the Entertainment and Sex Industries in Nepal: A Handbook for Decision-Makers*. (2010), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/handbook.pdf.

Gartner. *Gartner Says Government IT Spending in India to Reach $7 Billion in 2016*. 16 June 2016, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/3349118.

Ghosh, P. Babies in Danger: *Child Marriages Linked to High Infant Mortality Rates Across South Asia*. International Business Times, 29 October 2013, Accessed on 9 April 2017 from: http://www.ibtimes.com/babies-danger-child-marriages-linked-high-infant-mortality-rates-across-south-asia-1444674.

Gilbert, D. *Rising Trend of Live Streaming Child Abuse of 'Particular Concern'*. International Business Times, 16 October 2013, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/live-streaming-child-abuse-rising-trend-concern-514356.

Girls Not Brides. *Bangladesh and the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2016: A Recap*. Accessed on 18 August 2017 from: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/bangladesh-child-marriage-restraint-act-2016-recap/.

Girls Not Brides. *Child marriage around the world: Nepal*. Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/nepal/.

Girls Not Brides. *Girls' Safety*. Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/themes/girls-safety/.

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children. *Corporal punishment of children in Nepal*. (2016), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/assets/pdfs/states-reports/Nepal.pdf.

Global March against Child Labour and International Labour Organization (ILO). *Tackling Child Labour and Protecting Young Workers in Domestic Work: A Resource Manual*. (2014),

Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://globalmarch.org/sites/default/files/ResourceManual%28FINAL%29-4July2014.pdf.

Global March against Child Labour. *Annual Report January-December*. (2014), Accessed on 26 December 2016 from: http://globalmarch.org/sites/default/files/GlobalMarch_Annual_Report_2014.pdf.

Global March against Child Labour. *Economics Behind Forced Labour Trafficking. Comprehensive Case Studies of Child Domestic Labour and Commercial Sexual Exploitation*. (2014), Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://globalmarch.org/images/Economic-Behind-Forced-Labour-Trafficking.pdf.

Global March against Child Labour. *Handbook for Parliamentarians for Prevention of Child Labour*. (2013), Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.globalmarch.org/sites/default/files/Handbook%20for%20Parliamentarians_India.pdf.

Government of Afghanistan, Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled. *National Strategy for Children 'at-risk'. A Better Future for Afghanistan's Vulnerable Children and their Families*. (2004), Accessed on 7 August 2015 from: http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session5/AF/AFG_Afghanistan_National_Strategy_for_Children_at-risk.pdf.

Government of India, *Cabinet approves ratification of the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization (ILO)*.Press Information Bureau, 31 March 2017, Accessed on 12 April 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160369.

Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. *"Operation Smile-II" to start from 1st January, 2016 throughout the country*. Press Information Bureau, 14 December 2015, Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133154.

Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, *National Building Organisation. Report of the Committee on Slum Statistics/Census*. (2010), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://nbo.nic.in/Images/PDF/REPORT_OF_SLUM_COMMITTEE.pdf.

Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development. *National Plan of Action for Children, Safe Children- Happy Childhood*. (2016), Accessed on 18 January 2017 from: http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/National%20Plan%20of%20Action%202016.pdf.

Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development. T*he Ministry of Women and Child Development to setup National Alliance against online Child sexual abuse and exploitation. Press Information Bureau*, 16 January 2017, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157384.

Government of India, President's Secretariat. *President of India Launches '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign*. Press Information Bureau, 11 December 2016, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155277.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. *Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*. (2015), Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://mowca. portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mowca.portal.gov.bd/page/6768565c_9b45_4aed_ b390_919a52462d6c/CRC_draft_final_15.6.2015_bn.pdf.

Govt releases 'child vulnerability map' to depict problems faced by kids across India. Hindustan Times, 25 January 2017, Accessed on 25 January 2017 from: http://www.hindustantimes.com/ india-news/govt-releases-child-vulnerability-map-to-depict-problems-faced-by-kids-across-india/story-5SvJXPB5UBeP6SM96OuhoM.html.

Goździak, EM. Institute for the Study of International Migration Georgetown University. *Trafficking Survivors Return Home: Case Study of Nepal*. (2017), Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://www.academia.edu/27261889/Trafficking_Survivors_Return_Home_Case_ Study_of_Nepal.

GPower: The app that saved over 200 girls from trafficking, child marriage. IndiaToday.in., 23 February 2015, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://indiatoday.intoday.in/technology/ story/gpower--the-app-that-saved-over-200-girls-from-trafficking-child-marriage/1/420484. html.

Grameenphone. *Parents need to be more open and aware regarding online behavior of the youth*. 28 November 2015, Accessed on 4 April 2017 from: https://www.grameenphone. com/about/media-center/press-release/parents-need-be-more-open-and-aware-regarding-online-behavior-youth.

GSM Association (GSMA). *The Mobile Economy. Asia and Pacific 2015*. (2015), Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: https://www.gsmaintelligence.com/research/?file=fba9efc032061d5066b 0eda769ad277f&download.

Harris, G. *Cellphones Reshape Prostitution in India, and Complicate Efforts to Prevent AIDS*. The New York Times, 24 November 2012, Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://www.nytimes. com/2012/11/25/world/asia/indian-prostitutes-new-autonomy-imperils-aids-fight.html.

Holmes, L. *Human Trafficking & Corruption: Triple Victimisation?* (2009), in Friesendorf, C. (ed.), *Strategies against Human Trafficking: The Role of the Security Sector,* pp. 83-114, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.dcaf.ch/content/download/36920/529057/ file/Chapter%202.pdf

Home Office, Department for Culture, Media & Sport. *Government of the United Kingdom. WePROTECT summit tackles online child sexual exploitation on global scale*. Gov.uk, 16

November 2016, Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weprotect-summit-tackles-online-child-sexual-exploitation-on-global-scale.

Housing and Land Rights Network. *Homelessness*. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://hlrn.org.in/homelessness.

Housing and Land Rights Network. Housing and Land Rights in India: Status Report for Habitat III. (2016), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://hlrn.org.in/documents/Housing_and_Land_Rights_in_India_Report_for_Habitat_III.pdf.

Huda, *S. Sex trafficking in South Asia*. (2006), International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Vol. 94, No. 3, pp. 374 — 381, Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: http://childtrafficking.com/Docs/huda2006_oct07.pdf.

Hukil, R. *South Asia: Anti-Trafficking, Flesh Trade and Human Rights*. Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, 12 September 2013, Accessed on 22 December 2016 from: http://www.ipcs.org/article/india/south-asia-anti-trafficking-flesh-trade-and-human-rights-4116.html.

Human Rights Commission of Maldives. *Submission from the Human Rights Commission of Maldives for the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of the Republic of Maldives under the UNCRC committee pre-sessional working group meeting*. (2015), Accessed on 5 April 2017 from: http://hrcm.org.mv/publications/otherreports/HRCMSubmissiontoCRC27April15.pdf.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. *NCHR report on Kasur child abuse. 14 October 2015*, Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: http://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/nchr-report-on-kasur-child-abuse/.

Human Rights Council. United Nations. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid.* 2013, UN Doc. A/HRC/25/48, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session25/Pages/ListReports.aspx.

Human Rights Council. United Nations. *Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council. 26/9 Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.* (14 July 2014), A/HRC/RES/26/9, Accessed on 20 January 2017 from: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/alldocs.aspx?doc_id=23680.

Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. United Nations. *Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery*. (1956), Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/SupplementaryConventionAbolitionOfSlavery.aspx.

Human Rights Watch. Bangladesh: *Improve Protections for Migrant Domestic Workers*. 8 December 2016, Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/12/08/bangladesh-improve-protections-migrant-domestic-workers.

Human Rights Watch. *Contemporary forms of slavery in Pakistan*. (1995), Accessed on 11 January 2017 from: https://www.hrw.org/reports/1995/Pakistan.htm

India Ministry of Tourism, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Save the Children India. *Code of Conduct for Safe & Honourable Tourism*. (2010), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from:http://www.unodc.org/documents/southasia/News/conduct_final.pdf.

India Today.in. *Sindh becomes first province in Pakistan to adopt Hindu Marriage Bill: All about the Bill*, 18 February 2016, Accessed on 18 August 2017 from: http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/hindu-marriage-bill/1/599218.html.

Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) and UNICEF Sri Lanka. Study on Digital landscape: *The potential risks to children who are online.* (2015).

Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). *United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015.* (2015), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf.

International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC). *Child Pornography: Model Legislation & Global Review.* (2016), Accessed on 12 April 2017 from: http://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Child-Pornography-Model-Law-8th-Ed-Final-linked.pdf.

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). *Child Marriage in Southern Asia*. (2013), Accessed on 2 January 2016 from: http://www.icrw.org/publications/child-marriage-in-southern-asia/.

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). *Child Marriage and Domestic Violence.* (2007), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Child-Marriage-Toolkit.pdf.

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). *Child Marriage and Poverty*. (2006), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Child-Marriage-Toolkit.pdf.

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). *Child Marriage in South Asia: Realities, Responses, and the Way Forward.* (2013), Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.icrw.org/publications/child-marriage-in-south-asia-realities-responses-and-the-way-forward/.

International Conference on Primary Health Care. *Declaration of Alma-Ata. Alma-Ata, USSR, 6-12 September 1978*, Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://www.who.int/publications/almaata_declaration_en.pdf.

International Labour Office (ILO). *Marking progress against child labour Global estimates and trends 2000-2012.* (2013), Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_221513.pdf.

International Labour Office (ILO). *Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.* (2006), Accessed on 20 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---multi/documents/publication/wcms_094386.pdf.

International Labour Organization (ILO) and Understanding Children's Work (UCW). *Joining Forces against Child Labour: Interagency report for The Hague Global Child Labour Conference of 2010. (2010),* Accessed on 21 December 2016 from: http://ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_126870/lang--en/index.htm.

International Labour Organization (ILO). *Domestic workers across the world: Global and regional statistics and the extent of legal protection.* (2013), Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_173363.pdf.

International Labour Organization (ILO). *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up*. Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm.

International Labour Organization (ILO). Joint ILO/DFID project. *Work in Freedom: Preventing trafficking of women and girls in South Asia and the Middle East.* (2013), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/projects/WCMS_217626/lang--en/index.htm.

International Labour Organization (ILO). *New ILO's standards will help 21.5 million domestic workers. 2 February 2015,* Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/WCMS_342113/lang--en/index.htm.

International Labour Organization (ILO). United Nations. *Child Labour in South Asia*. Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/WCMS_300805/lang--en/index.htm.

International Monetary Fund (IMF). *Regional Economic Outlook*. Asia and Pacific. Building on Asia's Strengths during Turbulent Times. World Economic and Financial Surveys. (2016),

Accessed on 4 December 2016 from: https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2016/apd/eng/pdf/areo0516.pdf.

International Monetary Fund (IMF). *Regional Economic Outlook. Asia and Pacific. Building on Asia's Strengths during Turbulent Times. World Economic and Financial Surveys*. (2016).

International Organization for Migration (IOM). Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis. *Evidence and recommendations for further action to protect vulnerable and mobile populations. (2015)*, Accessed 6 January 2017 from: https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/press_release/file/CT_in_Crisis_FINAL.pdf.

International Parenthood Federation and the Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls. Ending Child Marriage. *A guide for global policy action*. (2007), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/endchildmarriage.pdf.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. United Nations. *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.* (2005), Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UNICEF. *Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection*. (2015), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/csr/files/COP_Guidelines_English.pdf.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). United Nations. *Child Online Protection*. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/default.aspx.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). United Nations. *COP Guidelines*. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/guidelines.aspx.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). United Nations. *Statistics: Percentage of Individuals using the Internet*. Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx.

INTERPOL. *Child Abuse Ring Identified Through an International Collaboration via INTERPOL.* 18 June 2014, Accessed on 14 April 2017 from: https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2014/N2014-114.

INTERPOL. *International Cooperation Agreements. Private Entities: International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE)*. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: https://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/Legal-materials/International-Cooperation-Agreements/Private-Entities.

INTERPOL. *INTERPOL Asia meeting sets its sights on enhancing regional security*. 17 April 2015, Accessed on 16 April 2017 from: https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2015/N2015-044.

INTERPOL. *Sri Lanka*. Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: https://www.interpol.int/Member-countries/Asia-South-Pacific/Sri-Lanka.

Iqbal, N. *SC seeks explanation about bonded labour*. Dawn, 15 January 2015, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://www.dawn.com/news/1157102/sc-seeks-explanation-about-bonded-labour.

Jose, M. Azim Premji University. *Reasons of runaway children. A study on "Why" children run away from home*. (2016).

Kanbur, R; Rhee, C; Zhuang, J. Asian Development Bank and Routledge. *Inequality in Asia and the Pacific. Trends, drivers, and policy implications.* (2014), Accessed on 7 December 2016 from: https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/41630/inequality-asia-and-pacific.pdf.

Khan, D. *Parental firewall for porn in the works: Telcos may offer parents with censorship tool.* The Economic Times, 19 January 2016, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/parental-firewall-for-porn-in-the-works-telcos-may-offer-parents-with-censorship-tool/articleshow/50631788.cms.

Khan, S and Lyon, S. International Labour Organization (ILO). *Measuring children's work in South Asia. Perspectives from national household surveys.* (2015), Accessed on 21 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new_delhi/documents/publication/wcms_359371.pdf.

Kishor, S and Gupta K. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, *Government of India and International Institute for Population Sciences. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) India, 2005-06.* (2009), Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/od57/od57.pdf.

Lahiri, A and Kar. PLUS Kolkata. S. Dancing boys. *Traditional prostitution of young males in India. Situational assessment report on adolescents and young boys vulnerable to forced migration, trafficking and sexual exploitation in India, A Study Report on Launda Dancers.* (2007), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from RISE Learning Network at https://riselearningnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/dancing_boys.pdf.

Lannon, J and Halpin, EF. Plan Asia Regional Office. *Responding to Cross-Border Child Trafficking in South Asia, An Analysis of the Feasibility of a Technologically Enabled Missing Child Alert System*. (2013), Accessed on 4 December 2016 from: http://eprints.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/544/1/RCBCT%20report.pdf.

Lynch, D; Tucker, K; Widner, K. Emory University School of Law. *Improving Offender Accountability in CSEC Cases: Tools for Investigating and Prosecuting Adult Exploiters.* (2012), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/Improving%20 Offender%20Accountability%20in%20CSEC%20-%20Emory%20Law.pdf.

Lynch, D. ECPAT International. *Access to Justice and Remedies for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation: Insights from Young Survivors and the Criminal Justice Professionals Who Work With Them.* (2016), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://globalstudysectt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Expert-Paper-ECPAT-Barriers-to-Access-to-Justice.pdf.

Matsuno, A and Blagbrough, J. International Labour Office (ILO). *Child Domestic Labour* in South-East and East Asia: Emerging Good Practices to Combat It. (n.d.), Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/ publication/wcms_bk_pb_35_en.pdf.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Government of India. *Khoya Paya*. Accessed on 23 April 2017 from: http://digitalindia.gov.in/content/khoya-paya.

McGranahan, G; Walnycki, A; Clark, D; Houston, R. International Institute for Environment and Development. *Reading national signatures in income-urbanisation space, Visualisation*. (2014), Accessed on 4 December 2016 from: http://www.iied.org/urbanisation-income-data.

McKinsey Global Institute. *India's Urban Awakening. Building inclusive cities, sustaining economic growth*. (2010), Accessed on 16 December 2016 from: http://www.mckinsey.com/ global-themes/urbanization/urban-awakening-in-india.

Memon, N. Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research. *Disasters in South Asia. A regional perspective*. (2012), Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: https://www.tdh.de/fileadmin/user_ upload/inhalte/04_Was_wir_tun/Themen/Humanitaere_Hilfe/Katastrophenhilfe/Disaster_ in_South_Asia_-_Naseer_memon.pdf.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Government of India. *Digital India: About the programme*. Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://digitalindia.gov.in/content/about-programme.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Government of India. *National Family Health Survey-4 2015 -16*. (2016), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet_NFHS-4.shtml.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. *Government of India. Children in India. A statistical appraisal*. (2012), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.thehinducentre. com/multimedia/archive/02447/Children_in_India__2447575a.pdf.

Ministry of Women and Child Development. Government of India. *Study on Child Abuse: India 2007*. (2007), Accessed on 18 December 2016 from: http://www.childlineindia.org.in/pdf/MWCD-Child-Abuse-Report.pdf.

Ministry of Women and Child Development. Government of India. *The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government–Civil Society Partnership.* (2003), Accessed on 22 January 2017 from: http://www.childlineindia.org.in/CP-CR-Downloads/ICPS.pdf.

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. *Track the Missing Child: National Tracking System for Missing & Vulnerable Children*. Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://trackthemissingchild.gov.in/trackchild/index.php.

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. *UJJAWALA: A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation*. Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://wcd.nic.in/schemes/ujjawala-comprehensive-scheme-prevention-trafficking-and-resue-rehabilitation-and-re.

Minor arrested in the Fuvahmulah child prostitution. Minivan News, 14 July 2015, Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: http://minivannewsarchive.com/news-in-brief/minor-arrested-in-the-fuvahmulah-child-prostitution-case-100946.

More child abuse cases surface in Pakistan. ZeeNews, 14 August 2015, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/more-child-abuse-cases-surface-in-pakistan_1646857.html

National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS). *The Challenge of Employment in India. An Informal Economy Perspective. Volume I - Main Report*. (2009), Accessed on 16 December 2016 from http://nceuis.nic.in/The_Challenge_of_Employment_in_India.pdf.

Morrow, *V. Beatings for asking for help: corporal punishment in India's schools*. The Guardian, 22 May 2015, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/may/22/tough-boys-and-docile-girls-corporal-punishment-in-indias-schools.

Mufti, I. CBSE *warns schools about corporal punishment*. The Indian Express, 29 June 2014, Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/cbse-warns-schools-about-corporal-punishment/.

Naseem, I. *Globalization and Child Labor Situation in South Asia*. (2009), The Dialogue, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 544-559, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2154481.

Naveed, S and Butt, *KM. Causes and Consequences of Child Marriages in South Asia: Pakistan's Perspective*. (2015), South Asian Studies, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 161 – 175, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/csas/PDF/10%20Khalid%20 Manzoor%20Butt_30_2.pdf.

National Commission for Human Rights, Government of Pakistan. *The Kasur Incident of Child Abuse, Fact Finding Report*. (n.d.).

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). *Assessment of pattern, profile and correlates of substance use among children in India*. (2013), Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/view_file.php?fid=17.

National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan. *Study on violence against children in Bhutan*. (2016), Accessed on 10 April 2017 from: http://www.ncwc.gov.bt/en/files/publication/consolidate%20report%20of%20the%20 three%20phases.pdf.

National Crime Records Bureau data as reported in *Half of India's missing children last year were sold into prostitution*. Scroll.in, 8 September 2014, Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: https:// scroll.in/article/677280/half-of-indias-missing-children-last-year-were-sold-into-prostitution.

National Human Rights Commission. Government of India. *Report of the NHRC Committee on missing children.* (2007), Accessed on 6 January 2017 from: http://www.childlineindia.org.in/ CP-CR-Downloads/Missing%20Child%20report%20NHRC.pdf.

National Legal Research Desk. *Standard Operating Procedure for Protection and Care of Children in Street Situations Launched*. 26 February 2017, Accessed on 11 April 2017 from: http://nlrd.org/standard-operating-procedure-for-protection-and-care-of-children-in-street-situations-launched/.

OECD. 2016 *Ministerial Meeting "The Digital Economy: Innovation, Growth and Social Prosperity". Ministerial Declaration on the Digital Economy ("Cancún Declaration").* (21-23 June 2016), Accessed on 17 April 2017 from: https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/Digital-Economy-Ministerial-Declaration-2016.pdf.

Office of the Cabinet of Ministers – Sri Lanka. *Press briefing of Cabinet Decision taken on 2016-02-03*. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://cabinetoffice.gov.lk/cab/index. php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=49&lang=en&dID=6554.

Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. *SRS Statistical Report 2014. Population Composition*. (2014), Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRS_Report_2014/6.%20Chap%20 2-Population%20Composition-2014.pdf.

Office of the Registrar General, India. Ministry of Home Affairs. *Vital Statistics of India Based on the Civil Registration System 2014.* (2016), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://crsorgi.gov.in/web/uploads/download/crs2014_final_29112016.pdf.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*. (2011), Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://www.oecd.org/corporate/mne/48004323.pdf.

Ortiz, C; Bishai, C; Rashid, J; Khan, Z. *Knowledge Community on Children in India. Child-friendly Local Governance in Kerala. A case study of two panchayats*. (2013), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.kcci.org.in/Document%20Repository/2013-KCCI%20KeralaLocalGovernance%20final.pdf.

Padmanabhan, *A. Urban inequality rising far more in India: François Bourguignon*. Live Mint, 23 May 2015, Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://www.livemint.com/Politics/5JVPBWc7VGX0AMt3U3YeQM/Urban-inequality-increasing-far-more-in-India-Franois-Bour.html.

Pakistan *offers immense ICT investment opportunities*. The News International, 26 October 2016, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/159876-Pakistan-offers-immense-ICT-investment-opportunities.

Penal Code, Sri Lanka, Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=67628.

Plan India. *Missing Child Alert*. Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: https://www.planindia.org/missing-child-alert.

PBS. *Commanding Heights: India*. Accessed on 3 December 2016 from: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/lo/countries/in/in_full.html.

Perczynska, O. *Child marriage in Nepal: What do you do when it's by choice?* Girls Not Brides, 28 February 2014, Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-nepal-choice/.

Plan Asia Regional Office and International Centre for Research on Women. *Asia Child Marriage Initiative: Summary of Research in Bangladesh, India and Nepal*. (2013), Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PLAN-ASIA-Child-Marriage-3-Country-Study.pdf.

Plan International. Missing Child Alert. Accessed on 13 January 2017 from: https://www.planindia.org/missing-child-alert.

Press Information Bureau Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment. *Ratification of core ILO Conventions No. on 138 and 182 on Child Labour.* (13 June 2017), Accessed on 28 June 2017 from: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=165604.

Rafferty, Y. *Ending Child Trafficking as a Human Rights Priority. Applying the Spectrum of Prevention as a Conceptual Framework, in Sigal, JA and Denmark, FL (editors). Violence Against Girls and Women: International Perspectives. 2013, Volume 1 (In Childhood, Adolescence and Young Adulthood*), Praeger.

Raftree, L; Appel, K and Ganness, A. Plan International. *Modern Mobility: The Role of ICTs in Child and Youth Migration*. (2013).

Rahman, SH; Khatri, S; Brunner, HP (eds). Asian Development Bank. *Regional Integration and Economic Development in South Asia.* (2012), Accessed on 11 December 2016 from: http://www.iadb.org/intal/intalcdi/PE/2013/10757.pdf.

Rai, S. *India Just Crossed 1 Billion Mobile Subscribers Milestone And The Excitement's Just Beginning*. Forbes, 6 January 2016, Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.forbes.com/sites/saritharai/2016/01/06/india-just-crossed-1-billion-mobile-subscribers-milestone-and-the-excitements-just-beginning/#40dbac275ac2.

Railway Childline. *Providing Care and Protection to children: A joint initiative of Ministries of Women & Child Development and Railways*. (n.d.), Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/RaiwayChildline_1.pdf.

Rama, M; Béteille, T; Li, Y; Mitra, PK; Newman, JL. World Bank Group. *Addressing Inequality in South Asia. South Asia Development Matters*. (2015), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/20395.

RENEW Bhutan, *Save the Children. Study on Status of Vulnerable Children*. (November 2015), Accessed on 14 August 2017 from:
http://renew.org.bt/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Study%20on%20status%20of%20vulnerable%20children,%202015.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *SAIEVAC-SAACH (South Asian Association of Child Helplines) Consultation*. (2014), SAIEVAC Newsletter 1, Issue 2, Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/SAIEVAC%20Newsletter/SAIEVAC%20Newsletter%202%20Final%20Printing.pdf.

SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and the Center for Reproductive Rights. *Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia*. (7 November 2014), Accessed on 18 January 2017 from: https://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/SA%20End%20Child%20Marriage%20Brochure_20Nov14(final)-2%20(1).pdf

Samuels, C. *et al*. Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP) and UNICEF South Africa. *Connected Dot Com: Young people's navigation of online risks.* (2013), Accessed on 12 April 2017 from: http://www.voicesofyouth.org/files/SAF_resources_connecteddotcom_54b567e5a298c.pdf.

Sanlaap India. *Programmes*. Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: http://www.sanlaap.org/programmes/.

Sanlaap, Defence for Children – ECPAT Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Country-Specific Report. India: West Bengal.* (2015), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://globalstudysectt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SECTT-INDIA-WEST-BENGAL.pdf.

Sanlaap. *Child Marriage: West Bengal Scenario*. (n.d.).
Sanyal, S; Nagrath, S; Singla, G. WWF India. *The alternative urban futures report. Urbanisation & sustainability in India: An interdependent agenda.* (2010), p. 20, Accessed on 6 December 2016 from: http://awsassets.wwfindia.org/downloads/urbanisation_report.pdf.

Save the Children and HAQ Centre for Child Rights. *Budget for children analysis. A beginners' guide.* (2010), Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/3134.pdf.

Save the Children and PWC. *Forgotten voices. The world of urban children in India*. (2015), Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: https://www.savethechildren.in/sci-in/files/79/79bfb888-7ed0-496e-b1e7-e71f7814ea7e.pdf.

Save the Children *et al*. *The South Asian Report on the Child-friendliness of Governments*. (2013), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/documents/the_south_asia_report_lowres.pdf.

Save the Children. *Mapping of Good Child Rights Corporate Social Responsibility Practices in Bangladesh.* (2014), Accessed on 11 April 2017 from: https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/sites/bangladesh.savethechildren.net/files/library/Mapping%20of%20Good%20CSR%20Practices%20in%20Bangladesh.pdf.

Save the Children. *Reducing Exploitation and Abuse of Children through strengthening National Child Protection System in Bangladesh (REACH)*. (n.d.), Accessed on 15 April 2017 from: https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/sites/bangladesh.savethechildren.net/files/library/Child%20Protection-Project%20Brief_REACH_0.pdf.

Save the Children. *Stepping Up Child Protection: An Assessment of Child Protection Systems from All Countries in South Asia, Including Reflections from Central Asia*. (2010), Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.crin.org/en/docs/Stepping_Up_Child_Protection.pdf.

Senate passes law against child sexual abuse. Dunya News, 12 March 2016, Accessed on 10 December 2016 from: http://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/327226-Senate-passes-law-against-child-sexual-abuse-.

Sibley, I. *The Burden of Daughters. Understanding the Impact of Responses to Child Marriage and Gender Discrimination in Nepal*. (2012).

Smart Cities Council India. Draft Concept Note on *Smart City Scheme*. (2014), Accessed on 7 December 2016 from: http://india.smartcitiescouncil.com/resources/concept-note-smart-city-scheme.

Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC). 2012 *Annual Report*. 2013, Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: http://www.sparcpk.org/2015/Publications/2012.pdf.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). *SAARC Conventions*. Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://saarc-sec.org/SAARC-Conventions/63/.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and Know Violence in Childhood. *Regional Expert Roundtable on Prevention of Violence in Schools in South Asia, 25-27 April 2016, Colombo*. (2016), Accessed on 15 January 2017 from: http://www.knowviolenceinchildhood.org/newsevents/detail/9.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *2nd Regional Convening on using law to promote accountability to end Child Marriage in South Asia*. 27 September 2016, Accessed on 21 April 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/news-updates/2nd-regional-convening-on-using-law-to-promote-accountability-to-end-child-marriage-in-south-asia-2/.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC', 3rd Technical Consultation Recommendations: Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children in South Asia.* (2013), Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/3rd%20TC%20Recommendations%20Formated.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia 2015-2018*. (2015), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/Thematic%20Area%20Resources/Child%20Marriage/RAP_Child_Marriage.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Corporal Punishment*. Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/our-work-2/thematic-areas/corporal-punishment/.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Prevention and Elimination of All the Forms of Child Labour in South Asia 2016-2021*. (2016), Accessed on 17 April 2017 from: http://www.alliance87.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SAIEVAC-Regional-Action-Plan-on-Child-Labour.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking, 21-22 March 2017 Bangkok, Thailand. Statement of Commitment*. (2017), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Final-Statement-of-Commitment_27-March-2017.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *SAIEVAC Mechanism*. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/about-saievac/saievac-mechanism/.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Workplan 2010-2015*. (2010), Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/political_declarations/SAIEVAC5YEAR0WORKPLAN2010.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Adopted recommendations of the 4th SAIEVAC ministerial meeting. 9-11 May 2016, New Delhi, India*. (2016), Accessed on 10 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/download/recommendations_of_4th_ministerial_meeting/Circulation%20-%20Adopted%20Recommendations%20of%20the%204th%20SAIEVAC%20Ministerial%20Meeting%20(F)_opt.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Sexual Abuse and Exploitation*. Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://www.saievac.org/sexual-abuse-and-exploitation/.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Concept Note: 3rd Technical Consultation on Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children based on Tradition, Culture, Religion and Superstition & 4th*
SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. 24-29 September 2013, Bhutan, Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: http://www.saievac.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Concept-Note-3rd-TC-CR.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *Report. SAIEVAC Children's Consultation on the UN Study on Violence Against Children Follow-up Actions*. (2012), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/docs/SAIEVAC_child_consultation_final_report.pdf.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). *South Asia Call for Action on Ending Violence Against Children, South Asia Follow Up Regional Consultation*. (28-30 May 2012), Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/political_declarations/South_Asia_Call_for_Action_%20On_Ending_Violence_against_Children_Colombo_Declaration.pdf.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and UNICEF. *Assessment of Progress in the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child* (2001-2010). (2011), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/rosa/SAARC_Assessment_report_of_Child_right(1).pdf.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). *Gender related issues: Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children*. Accessed on 17 December 2017 from: http://saarc-sec.org/areaofcooperation/detail.php?activity_id=10.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). *SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia*. (2002), Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: http://www.saarc-sec.org/userfiles/conv-children.pdf.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). *SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters*. Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://saarc-sec.org/areaofcooperation/detail.php?activity_id=20.

Squire, J and Wijeratne, S. Terre des Hommes Foundation. *Sri Lanka Research Report. The Sexual Abuse, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children in Sri Lanka*. (2008), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/trafficking_report_srilanka_17_12_08.pdf.

State v. Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs & Others. Suo Motu Rule No. 5621. H.C.D. Bangladesh. (2009), 358.

Statement of Action by Governments to Tackle Online CSE, Abu Dhabi WePROTECT Summit 16-17 November 2015. (2015), Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484757/FINAL_Country_SOA_111215.pdf.

Statement of Action: WePROTECT Summit 10-11 Dec 2014. (2014), Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477612/171211_-_Statement_of_Action_-_Countries_LEAs_-_FINAL__4_.pdf.

Tacoli, C; McGranahan, G; Satterthwaite, D. IIED. *Urbanisation, rural–urban migration and urban poverty. IIED Working Paper*. (2015), Accessed on 6 December 2016 from: http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10725IIED.pdf.

Taylor, S. UNICEF Nepal. *Children's clubs help working young people learn about their rights*. Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nepal_50660.html.

Telenor Group: Mobile operators must take responsibility for internet safety. Telenor Group, 10 February 2015, Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: https://www.telenor.com/media/press-releases/2015/telenor-group-mobile-operators-must-take-responsibility-for-internet-safety/.

TeliaSonera. *Children Online*. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://annualreports. teliasonera.com/en/2015/sustainability-work/children-online/.

Terre des Hommes Foundation and UNICEF. *Adopting the Rights of the Child. A Study on Intercountry Adoption and its Influence on Child Protection in Nepal*. (2008), Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/ documents/1661.pdf.

Terre des Hommes Foundation. *Launch of Three Year Programme Against Sexual Exploitation of Children in Asia.* 3 March 2016, Accessed on 20 April 2017 from: https://www.terredeshommes. nl/en/news/launch-three-year-programme-against-sexual-exploitation-children-asia.

Terre des Hommes Foundation. *Project WATCH*. Accessed on 16 April 2017 from: https://www. terredeshommes.nl/en/programmes/project-watch.

Terre des Hommes Foundation. *WCST FAQ*. (n.d.), p. 1, Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.terredeshommes.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/FAQ-English.pdf.

Terre des Hommes Foundation. *Webcam child sex tourism, Becoming Sweetie: A novel approach to stopping the global rise of Webcam Child Sex Tourism*. (2013), Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: https://www.terredeshommes.nl/sites/tdh/files/uploads/research_report.pdf.

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Australian Aid. *Review of national legislations and policies on child marriage in South Asia*. (n.d.), Accessed on 2 January 2017 from: https://www.afppd.org/Resources/Review-of-National-Legislations-and-Policies-on-Child-Marriage-in-South-Asia.pdf.

The Concerned for Working Children (CWC). *Children's Citizenship*. Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.concernedforworkingchildren.org/empowering-children/childrens-citizenship/.

The Global Slavery Index. *The Global Slavery Index 2016*. (2016), Accessed on 8 December 2016 from: http://assets.globalslaveryindex.org/downloads/GSI-2016-Full-Report.pdf.

The Global Slavery Index. *The Global Slavery Index 2016. Bangladesh*. Accessed on 8 December 2016 from: http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/country/bangladesh/

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). *What is Disaster Risk Reduction*?. Accessed on 17 January 2017 from: https://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr.

The World Bank. *Internet users (per 100 people). Overview per country*. Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.P2?end=2015&start=2005.

Thorn and Digital Reasoning. *Spotlight*. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: https://www.wearethorn.org/spotlight/.

Too many single men. The legacy of gendercide. The Economist, 19 January 2017, Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21714992-long-ugly-legacy-gendercide-too-few-girls-too-many-men.

Tourism Boosts Human Trafficking in Goa. The Times of India, 3 August 2013, Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/Tourism-boosts-human-trafficking-in-Goa/articleshow/21563733.cms.

Transparency International. *Breaking the Chain: Trafficking and Corruption*. (2011), Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/breaking_the_chain_corruption_and_human_trafficking.

Uddin, J; Hossain, MZ; Mahbub, F. *Vulnerability to Child Pornography and Loopholes in Legislative Frameworks in South Asia.* (2012), ASA University Review, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 197-207, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.asaub.edu.bd/data/asaubreview/v6n2sl18.pdf.

Uddin, MB. *Human Trafficking in South Asia: Issues of Corruption and Human Security*. (2014), International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice, Vol. 2, No.1, pp. 18-27, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: http://www.hrpub.org/download/20140305/IJRH3-19201859.pdf.

UN Human Rights Council. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*. (2014), Twenty-eighth session, UN Doc A/HRC/28/56, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A_HRC_28_56_ENG.doc.

UN Human Rights Council. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*. (2015), Thirty-first session, UN Doc. A/HRC/31/58, Accessed on 30 December 2015 from: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/294/64/PDF/G1529464.pdf?OpenElement.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Education for All Global Monitoring Report. *A growing number of children and adolescents are out of school as aid fails to meet the mark, Policy Paper 22, Fact Sheet*. (2015), Accessed on 17 December 2016 from: http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/fs-31-out-of-school-children-en.pdf.

UNICEF India. *Child Online Protection in India*. (2016), Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://unicef.in/Uploads/Publications/Resources/pub_doc115.pdf.

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Child Safety Online*. Global Challenges and Strategies. (2012), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/ict_techreport3_eng.pdf.

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. South Asia in Action. Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Child Rights-Based Programme Practices. (2008), Accessed on 18 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/500/.

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *South Asia in Action*: Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking. Summary Report. (2008), Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: www.unicef-irc.org/publications/501/.

UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). *Improving Children's Lives, Transforming the Future. 25 years of Child Rights in South Asia*. (2014), Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/rosa/overview_9340.htm.

UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). *Terms of Reference, On-line Sexual Exploitation of Children – Situation Assessment Submitted by the Child Protection Section*. (2015), Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.ungm.org/UNUser/Documents/DownloadPublicDocument?docId=372395.

UNICEF. *2015 Progress Report. Six Headline Results for Children in South Asia, End Child Marriage.* (2015), Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/rosa/4-PR-childmarriage.pdf.

UNICEF. *III World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-28 November 2008*. (2008), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/protection/World_Congress_III_against_Sexual_Exploitation_of_Children_and_Adolescents(1).pdf.

UNICEF. *Annual Report 2014. Our story*. (2015), p. 8, Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://www.unicef.cz/odkazove_zdroje_textove_materialy/vyrocni_zpravy/unicef_annual_report_2014.pdf.

UNICEF. *Behind Closed Doors. The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children*. (2006), Accessed on 5 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf.

UNICEF. *Child Friendly Local Governance Programme*. Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://unicef.org.np/our-work/cflg.

UNICEF. *Child protection in the digital age. National responses to online child sexual abuse and exploitation in ASEAN Member States*. (2016), Accessed on 8 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_in_the_Digital_Age.pdf.

UNICEF. *Corporate Social Responsibility*, Introduction to the Principles. Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/csr/12.htm.

UNICEF. *Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects*. (2014), Accessed on 4 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf.

UNICEF. *Hidden in plain sight. A statistical analysis of violence against children.* (2014), Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: http://files.unicef.org/publications/files/Hidden_in_plain_sight_statistical_analysis_EN_3_Sept_2014.pdf

UNICEF. *Progress for Children. A report card on adolescents*. (April 2012), Number 10, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/files/PFC2012_A_report_card_on_adolescents.pdf.

UNICEF. *Protecting Children from Violence: A comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF's strategies and programme performance*. (2015), Accessed on 7 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_VAC.html.
UNICEF. *South Asia*. Accessed on 8 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/rosa.html#1.
UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2012. Children in an Urban World*. (2012), Accessed on 9 December 2016 from https://www.unicef.org/sowc2012/pdfs/SOWC%202012-Main%20Report_EN_13Mar2012.pdf.

UNICEF. The State of the World's Children 2016. A fair chance for every child. (2016), Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf.

UNICEF. *The Yokohama Global Commitment 2001, 2nd World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Yokohama, Japan, 17-20 December 2001.* (2001), Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/events/yokohama/outcome.html.

UNICEF. *Victims Are Not Virtual*: S*ituation assessment of online child sexual exploitation in South Asia*. (2016), Accessed on 2 April 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/rosa/Victims_are_not_virtual.pdf.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution. *Child, Early and Forced Marriage*. (2014), UN Doc. A/Res/69/156, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/156.

United Nations Human Rights Council. *Preventing and Eliminating Child, Early and Forced Marriage, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*. (2014), UN Doc. A/HRC/26/22., Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session26/Documents/A-HRC-26-22_en.doc.

United Nations Human Rights Council. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Gulnara Shahinian. Thematic report on servile marriage*. (2012), UN Doc. A/HRC/21/41, Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/docs/A-HRC-21-41_en.pdf.

United Nations Human Rights Council. *Strengthening Efforts to Prevent and Eliminate Child, Early and Forced Marriage*. (2015), UN Doc. A/HRC/29/L.15, Accessed on 27 December 2016 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d_res_dec/A_HRC_29_L15.docx.

United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. *Committee on Rights of Child examines reports of India under the Convention and Protocols on Children in armed conflict, Sale of Children*. (3 June 2014), Accessed on 23 December 2016 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14663&LangID=E.

United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework*. (2011), Accessed on 19 January 2017 from: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf.

United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. *New digital technologies produce unprecedented levels of child abuse material online*. 18 March 2016, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Childsexualexploitationonlineontherise.aspx.

United Nations Human Rights. Office of the High Commissioner. *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.* (2000), Accessed on 12 December 2016 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx.

United Nation's Millennium Development Goals Indicators. The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/seriesdetail.aspx?srid=710.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). *Marrying Too Young. End Child Marriage*. (2012), Accessed on 29 December 2016 from: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MarryingTooYoung.pdf.

United Nations Nepal Information Platform. *Nepal declares its first child friendly VDC*. Accessed on 13 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org.np/success-stories/nepal-declares-its-first-child-friendly-vdc.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). *South Asia: Mr. Manabendra Mandal, Chairman ATSEC (Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children): a relentless crusader for the right to freedom from exploitation*. Accessed on 16 December 2016 from: https://www.unodc.org/southasia//frontpage/2010/october/interview-with-mr-manabendra-mandal-atsec.html.

United Nations Treat Collection. *Status of Treaties: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&clang=_en.

United States Department of Labor. *2013 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*. (2014), Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: https://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2013TDA/2013TDA.pdf.

United States Department of Labor. *2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*. (2016), Accessed on 28 December 2016 from: https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2015TDA.pdf.

United States Department of State. Maldives 2015 Human Rights Report. (2016), p. 21, Accessed on 30 December 2016 from: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/253181.pdf.

United States Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. (2016), Accessed on 9 January 2017 from: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf.

United States Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*: India. (2010), Accessed on 9 January 2017 from: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf.

Variyar, M. *Another child rape, pornography scandal rocks Pakistan*. International Business Times, 11 May 2016, Accessed on 13 January 2017 from:http://www.ibtimes.co.in/another-child-rape-pornography-scandal-rocks-pakistan-678268.

Weissbrodt, D and Kruger, M. *Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights*. (2003), American Journal of International Law, Vol. 97, pp. 901-922, Accessed on 21 January 2017 from: http://scholarship.law.umn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1247&context=faculty_articles.

WePROTECT Global Alliance. *Model National Response (MNR) Guidance Document*. Accessed on 13 April 2017 from: http://www.weprotect.org/the-model-national-response/.

Whitehead, A. et al. Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty. *Child Migration, Child Agency and Inter-generational Relations in Africa and South Asia, Working Paper T24*. (2007), Accessed on 18 December 2016 from: http://www.migrationdrc. org/publications/working_papers/WP-T24.pdf.

Wikipedia. *Digital India*. Accessed on 24 April 2017 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Digital_India.

Wikipedia. *Internet censorship and surveillance by country*. Accessed on 3 January 2017 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_censorship_and_surveillance_by_country.

Wikipedia. Juvenile Justice (*Care and Protection of Children*) Act, 2015. Accessed on 18 December 2016 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juvenile_Justice_(Care_and_Protection_ of_Children)_Act,_2015.

Working Group Against Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation and Save the Children Sweden. *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. A Situational Analysis of Pakistan*. (2005), Accessed on 13 December 2016, from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/ documents/1359.pdf.

World Health Organization (WHO) and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. *Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women*: Taking Action and Generating Evidence. (2010), Accessed on 14 January 2017 from: http://www.who.int/violence_injury_ prevention/publications/violence/9789241564007_eng.pdf.

World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and ECPAT International. *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*. (n.d.), Accessed on 14 December 2016 from: http://www.unicef.org/lac/code_of_conduct.pdf.

World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and United Federation of Travel Agents' Association (UFTAA). *The Child and Travel Agents' Charter*. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http:// ethics.unwto.org/en/content/protect-children-campaign-partner-uftaa.

World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Ethics and Social Responsibility. *World Tourism Network on Child Protection*. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://ethics.unwto.org/content/ world-tourism-network-child-protection.
World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. Accessed on 15 December 2016 from: http://ethics.unwto.org/en/content/global-code-ethics-tourism.

World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. *UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2016.* (2016), Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/ pdf/10.18111/9789284418145.

World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). United Nations. *UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2015.* (2015), Accessed on 20 December 2016 from: http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416899.

World Vision International. *Keeping Children Safe Online*. Accessed on 16 January 2017 from: http://www.wvi.org/keeping-children-safe-online.

World Vision International. *Working with DFID to stop child marriage in Nepal*. 21 July 2016, Accessed on 19 April 2017 from: http://www.worldvision.org.uk/news-and-views/blog/2016/july/working-dfid-stop-child-marriage-nepal/.

Yapi International. *Discrimination Against the Girl Child*. Accessed on 7 January 2017 from: http://yapi.org/childrens-rights/discrimination-against-the-girl-child/.

Youth Council for Development Alternatives (YCDA). *Child Migration: Challenges and Scopes. A study on child migration to identify the challenges and scopes with regard to Education, Health, Nutrition and Protection of Migrant Children in Kantamal and Harbhanga Blocks of Boudh District of Odisha*. (2014), Accessed on 12 January 2017 from: http://www.shram.org/CMS/uploadFiles/20140617033430.pdf.

Zelazny, F. Center for Global Development (CGD). *The Evolution of India's UID Program: Lessons Learned and Implications for Other Developing Countries.* (2012), CGD Policy Paper 008, Accessed on 11 January 2017 from: http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1426371.

ENDING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN