

**A Situational Analysis of Child Sex Tourism in Sri Lanka  
(Negombo, Colombo, Mt. Lavinia, Hikkaduwa, Galle,  
Anuradhapura and Trincomalee)**

**By  
South Asia Partnership International**

**December 2003**



END CHILD PROSTITUTION  
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY  
& TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN  
FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Children and women are the most vulnerable group of the human species. Throughout time in nearly every single civilization it was the male members of the community who were considered the leaders. It was the men who were given opportunities whilst their female counterparts were has to contend with age-old norms and work.

But this situation changed. Women were awarded the right to vote and participate in decision-making. The child, who was then established as the “father of man” was given prominence. It was felt that if the human species was to succeed, the child, whether male or female, must succeed.

Education was made mandatory and children were required to speak for themselves. But as a result of the social network that is existent in nearly all South Asian countries children still take a backseat. They never or hardly ever influence decisions made by adults. They simply fall in line.

As a consequence of this child rights go ignored. Even though Sri Lanka is a signatory of the UNCRC, many are the occasions in which it is glaringly obvious that many child rights are disregarded. During the ethnic riots which took place in Sri Lanka, many allegations were made in reference to the recruitment of child soldiers.

The recruitment of children as child soldiers is not the only form in which the liberties of Sri Lankan children are infringed. Many children are brought into suburban households as paid labourers and many are compelled as a result of their social and economic background to look for further employment and abandon any chance of education.

Child sex tourism is one of the gravest violations of child rights. Children living close to the beach find CST a novel and easy method of making money and supporting their families.

South Asia Partnership International was commissioned by ECPAT International to conduct research to help identify the incidence of CST in Sri Lanka. It was felt by conducting a comprehensive situation analysis work could be undertaken in future to help combat this problem in the country and award the children their rightful place in society as children and not as paid workers who are constantly abused.

## 1.1 Definitions

The definitions with which the research began were those common in international human rights campaigns were used as a guide for the purposes of data collection.

A Child is defined by the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989** (CRC) Article 1 as, a **Child** being:

*“Every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child majority is attained earlier.”*

In Sri Lanka the age of majority is established at 18.

The **Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action** of the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (1996) provided the definition for **commercial sexual exploitation of children**:

*“The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is a fundamental violation of Children’s’ Rights. It comprises Sexual Abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children constitutes a form of coercion and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.”*

The **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2000** on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography which is the most recent international instrument focusing on all three, aspects defines **Child Prostitution** in the following terms;

*“Child Prostitution means the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration.”*

In **Article 3 of the ILO Convention 182**, concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the **Worst Forms of Child Labour** 1999, defines the “worst forms of child labour” as encompassing child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography along the following lines:

- a) *all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in Armed conflict;*
- b) *the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;*
- c) *the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;*
- d) *work which, by it’s nature or the circumstance in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of the children.*

**Sex Tourism** according to the World Tourism Organisation is; **WTO Resolution A/RES/338 (XI)**

*“Sex Tourism is defined as trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination.”*

### *Definition of a Child<sup>1</sup>*

<u>Law</u>	<u>Age</u>
The Children’s Charter, 1992	18
Age of Majority (Amendment) Act No: 17 of 1989	18
Civil Procedure Code and Child Protection Authority Act, 1999	18
The Children and Young Person’s Ordinance, 1939 (Young Persons below 14-16)	14
Minimum age of Criminal Responsibility	08
The Children and Young Persons Ordinance, 1939	Child below 14, young person 14–16, youthful offender 16–22
Minimum age of Employment in all sectors including domestic labour	14
The Penal Code (Amendment) Act No 22 (1995) Age of Statutory Rape	16
For offence of trafficking in children	18
Age of Marriage	
~ Secular Law	18
~ Kandyan Law	18
~ Muslim Law	Does not specify

The operational definition for the study is that a child is considered to be any human being of the age of 18 years or less. Therefore:

***Child Sex Tourism** is the use of children of the age of 18 years of less (whether be male or female) in sexual activities by tourists (either foreign tourists or local tourists who are alien to the specific community) in return for either a pecuniary advantage or gifts of kind to the child, a parent or guardian or relevant third person.*

## **1.2 Objectives of the Research**

The purpose of the above three-month study was established in accordance with all local research teams as per the original proposal forwarded by ECPAT International. The overall objectives of the research being to gather information on the nature, scope and

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<sup>1</sup> Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children in South Asia, UNICEF



manifestations of child sex tourism (CST) in the selected countries of South Asia. These countries include India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.<sup>2</sup>

In order to do so it was held to be important to identify key-actors connected with CST in selected tourism settings in the country and study the interplay within and outside the tourism industry that facilitates CST in those contexts. And also to identify actions, which can be taken at different levels to combat CST, based on the findings.

To contextualize the problem of child sex tourism in Sri Lanka it was important to firstly establish an overview of children at-risk and child victims of CSEC and thereby establish a profile of both the offenders and the victims.

A situation analysis of the tourism sector of Sri Lanka conducted just prior to this research project established the foundation of how, why and where tourism would influence the incidence of child prostitution.<sup>3</sup>

A list of key stakeholders at national and local level target areas of Sri Lanka capable of influencing CST, a needs analysis of stakeholder capacity and interest in combating CST and recommendations on priority actions to be taken for combating CST in Sri Lanka were also made available.

### **1.3 Organisational Details**

In compiling this report on the Situational Analysis of Child Sex Tourism in Sri Lanka South Asia Partnership International was aided by South Asia Partnership – Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation.

South Asia Partnership International (SAP-I) is a south-based, south-led international NGO. As the coordinating body of the South Asia Partnership Network, SAP-I facilitates solidarity between other community-based organizations and issue based networks within South Asia. The South Asia Partnership network consists of six national member organizations, namely:

- South Asia Partnership – Bangladesh
- South Asia Partnership – Canada
- South Asia Partnership – India
- South Asia Partnership – Nepal
- South Asia Partnership – Pakistan
- South Asia Partnership – Sri Lanka

The Sap-I secretariat works with a network of local and regional organizations to create and implement programs that will improve the state of human development in South Asia. SAP-I's three major intervention areas are sustainable livelihood, good governance and human security and peace building.

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<sup>2</sup> This Report pertains only to a Situational Analysis of CST in Sri Lanka.

<sup>3</sup> An Independent Researcher submitted this Research Report to ECPAT International.

In preparation for the South Asian Regional Consultation against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2001 country reviews on seven South Asian countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Afghanistan and a regional paper was prepared by South Asia Partnership International in collaboration with UNICEF ROSA. The country reviews prepared by SAP – I focus on an assessment of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and outlines some insights of the way forward.

Given below are the names and responsibilities of the research team involved in the above study into child sex tourism.

1. **Dr. W. James Arputharaj** (Overall Planning, Research Design and field co-ordination)
2. **Ms. Ruwanthi Herat** Gunaratne (Research Analysis, Reporting and Liaison with ECPAT)
3. **Mr. J.M.T.P.B.** Jayasundera (Research Assistant)
4. **Ms. Mercin Suguna** (Research Assistant)
5. **Ms. Chitra Vithanage** (Research NGO Liaison)
6. **Ms. Sureshi Jayawardene** (Research Assistant)
7. **Mr. U.L.M. Ashker** (Research Supporter)
8. **Ms. Anusha Ponnampalam** (Research Supporter)

Ms. Harini Dias Bandaranayake, an employee of SAP – International has also come forward to help us on a voluntary basis when undertaking Field Research. Mr. C. T. Jansz conducted research NGO Liaison for Anuradhapura.

The locations chosen for the study included Anuradhapura, Colombo, Galle, Hikkaduwa, Mount Lavinia, Negombo, and Trincomalee. The time frame being 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

#### **1.4 Sri Lanka**

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which is located in South Asia, is an island with a land area of about 65, 525 km<sup>2</sup> and is situated at the southern tip of its nearest neighbour India. It is a country with a vast geographical diversity. Its central mountain region includes peaks as high as 2524 meters.

The country is divided into three main climatic zones: wet, intermediary and dry. These zones have been demarcated according to the various temperatures in the specified areas. The mean temperature ranges from 24C to 31C in the low country and 17C to 25C in the hill country.

The history of Sri Lanka spans 2500 years. Its beginnings are in myth, on the arrival of Prince Vijaya and his followers. Legend professes that even at the time of his arrival

civilization reigned in Sri Lanka. The earliest records of civilization date back to 380 BC when Anuradhapura was established as the capital city.

As a result of the continuous invasions from India the base of power (the capital) shifted periodically. Amongst those being Pollonnaruwa, Kandy, Yapahuwa, Kurunegala and lastly Sri Jayawardenepura. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Sri Lanka was invaded by the Portugese, who were ousted by the Dutch with the aid of the locals. The country was then brought under Dutch rule until they too were ousted by the English in 1815.

Sri Lanka was a colony of Britain but gained independence in 1948. The constitution that is now in effect is that which was established in 1978.

### **1.5 Situation Assessment**

Children are vulnerable in any society. Sri Lanka has the highest literacy in Asia and shares 99 as a medium growth in the human development index.<sup>4</sup> This does not mitigate the sufferings of the children under especially difficult circumstances. Compared to its South Asian neighbours where exploitation of girls is a problem, in Sri Lanka it is boys who are vulnerable than girls.

It is estimated that approximately 36 000 boy child victims of prostitution in some coastal districts of Sri Lanka.<sup>5</sup>

Perusal of existing literature concluded that even though child sex tourism exists in Sri Lanka, its extent, the numbers of victims and offenders are relatively unknown and not conclusive.

“According to published data the number of child sex workers range from 2,000 (Tim Bond, 1980 – Reference to Boy Prostitutes), 10 000 (PEACE, 1990), 30 000 (Ministry of Health and Women’s Affairs) and 2 000 to 2 500 (Department of Childcare and Probation, Ratnapala 1999)<sup>6</sup>

Until about a decade or so before not much information was available on the incidence and the prevalence of child prostitution. It is said that even though prostitution may have been prevalent even in the days of yore. “Boy prostitution has been made available in cities by organized groups for locals but organized prostitution of boys for foreign clients is a recent phenomena.”<sup>7</sup>

The incidence of the children being affected by CST and CSEC can be divided by area. Weeramunda (1996) conducted a survey with school children in 3 schools in the Kalutara District (which is situated close to tourist hotspots) of those interviewed, 3% said that

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<sup>4</sup> UNDP

<sup>5</sup> [www.lockstockandbarrel.org](http://www.lockstockandbarrel.org), December 1998

<sup>6</sup> “Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children – A Review of South Asia – Sri Lanka” SAP – International, 2001

<sup>7</sup> “An Evil Under the Sun” Seneviratne (1996)

they had had sexual relationships with tourists. Nearly, two thirds of the children exploited were male. None of the children saw the sexual encounters as a job and surprisingly to Weeramunda 80% attended school and did not play truant or drop out of school. He concluded that sexual exploitation of children has not been “adequately investigated.”<sup>8</sup>

This is the gravest problem. Studies conducted by various researchers throughout a period of 15 years have shown that the numbers are inconclusive. By 1991, UNICEF figures indicated that child prostitution (especially in boys) had assumed serious proportions in Sri Lanka, with estimates of up to 30,000 children being between the ages of 7 and 18 years. In 1998, the numbers were drawn at 36 000.

In a pilot study to ascertain the prevalence, attitudes and practice of sexual behaviour in young adolescents school children it was found that 6% of the children who completed the questionnaire said that they had Sex with adults for money.<sup>9</sup>

In 1997 the London Telegraph observed that “10 000 to 12 000 children from rural areas are trafficked and prostituted to paedophiles by organized crime groups.”

Sri Lanka always attracted tourists from all over the world. The country’s location, long expanse of beach and high temperatures may be regarded as the main influencing factor. By the 1970’s the high growth rate of the country could also be attributed to this mass tourism. As a result of the ethnic conflict, which began in the Northern and North Eastern parts of the country the rate of arrivals receded, but unlike in most other South Asian countries, never hit rock bottom.

During the 1970’s hotels and guesthouses proliferated, especially in the coastal areas, to accommodate the growing number of visitors. At that time, the growth rate of tourism was the highest in Asia with an annual growth of 27 per cent.<sup>10</sup> As a result of the ever-growing interest tourism there was the resultant of many tourism facility providers and consequently of child prostitution linked wholly or in part to tourism.

It was not until 1994 that the political scene began to respond to the issue. In April of that year, the Chief Minister of the Western Provincial Council, Hon. Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunge, the present President of Sri Lanka took up the issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation by foreigners and conducted a meeting on the matter with NGO’s and relevant government officials, including the Western Provincial Minister of Tourism and Social Welfare. This was the first political intervention against commercial sexual of children and child abuse in Sri Lanka.

Consequent to these discussions an established NGO in the area, P. E. A. C. E. was requested by the Chief Minister to organize seminars sponsored by the Western Provincial Council to raise awareness on CSEC. This included two seminars, which were

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<sup>8</sup> [www.focalpointngo.org](http://www.focalpointngo.org)

<sup>9</sup> Focal Point – Against Sexual Exploitation of Children by Glenn Michael Miles.

<sup>10</sup> Good Practices in Combating Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in Asia, (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) *United Nations December 2001*

held in Kalutara, a vulnerable area for CSEC. Research on all forms of Child Abuse, including sexual abuse and CSEC, by professionals emerged at this stage.

The next step was legal reform in the area of Child Protection. In October 1995, the Act of Amendments to a more than century old Penal Code was brought to the Parliament and unanimously passed. Among other Amendments were mandatory sentences and stronger punitive methods against such crimes as sexual assault and incest.

In February 1997, the President of Sri Lanka chaired meeting with government agencies, United Nations agencies and NGOs to discuss the type of actions necessary to end all forms of child abuse, including CSEC. Suggestions included proposing stricter laws than in the 1995 Amendments, improved law enforcement, and the establishment of a statutory body with powers to ensure protection of children. A Task Force was appointed by the President to look into the best interests of children and make official recommendations.

On the recommendation of the Task Force, a special bill to form the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) was presented in Parliament (Act No: 50 of 1998) and the NCPA was established in early 1999. Amongst the many powers conferred on the NCPA is that which is vested by section 33 of the NCPA Act, it is in a position to carry out its own investigations on child abuse cases through authorized officers without a search warrant.

“Action was also taken by the Controller of Immigration and Emigration from the early eighties to deport tourists found involved in homosexual activities with children. The Bill called Hotels; Restrictions of/on Entry was broached in 1985 and this legislation was framed to impose a fine or imprisonment of hoteliers who permit young people, unaccompanied by parents or guardians, to patronize hotels and lodging houses. There was evidence to indicate that child prostitution has grown into a serious social problem with the development of tourism, in a context where no controls exist in regard to the activities of unscrupulous tourists and their local collaborators.”<sup>11</sup>

The situation in Sri Lanka is not one that is ignored. In 1995 and in 1998 amendments introduced several offences and penalties in the criminal code. And as a result of these amendments it was concluded in “Looking Back, Thinking Forward – The fourth report on the Implementation of the Agenda for Action adopted by the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children – ECPAT International” that “serious attempts are being made to combat CSEC.”

Not only has legislation being enacted but other methods of enforcement have also been considered. Thirty-three Women and Children Police Desks have been established throughout the country to ensure a more woman and child-friendly law enforcement system. These desks are headed by Women Police Officers. The major areas of activity include investigating complaints and taking cases to court. Priority is given to child abuse, particularly cases of paedophilia, and domestic violence.

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<sup>11</sup> An Evil Under the Sun, The Sexual Exploitation of Children in Sri Lanka – The PEACE Campaign

The Department of Police has published a Handbook on Child Abuse for Police Officers. The handbook gives practical advice and guidance on how to detect and deal with various forms of child abuse, including sexual abuse. The National Child Protection Authority in Sri Lanka has also produced a teachers' guide on corporal punishment and other forms of child abuse for teachers.

Children who are thus victimized are sent to;

- a. Government run remand homes/certified schools and houses of detention – recovery through shelter, food, education etc.
- b. Don Bosco (Negombo) – Rescue and Recovery for boy victims of Sexual Exploitation, shelter, healing, non-formal education, spiritual education, recreation and vocational training.
- c. Nisala Diya Sevena (Still Waters – Negombo) – Shelter home for abused and exploited girls and women, spiritual healing and integral development, counseling, skill training, re-integration and restoration into families and society.
- d. Meth Sevena (Government Run Home) – Shelter, counseling to prepare victims for re-integration, vocational training and follow-up on re-integration.
- e. ESCAPE – Drop in centre for sexually exploited girls and boys at Dehiwela Beach, psychosocial counseling, legal advice are included.
- f. The Girl Child Centre of the YWCA (Colombo) – Drop in Centre for victims of sexual abuse.
- g. Community Health Foundation (Negombo) – Recovery and reintegration of victims of exploitation back to the family, school and society. Counselling is an integral part.
- h. Sarvodaya Street Children's Programme – Night Shelter for Street Children, crisis intervention centre, counseling and education are included.

Though Child Rights Activists and the state can profess that much has been done to combat the exploitation of children by such activities, the issue of CST remains. Alarming, the unemployment rate of Sri Lanka has increased from 7.9% in 2001 to 19.2% in 2002.<sup>12</sup> This may in turn lead to a higher incidence of CST in the near future.

Since 1994, 19 foreign paedophiles have been apprehended and tried in Sri Lanka; three cases are still being heard in the courts of law in the country. Most of these offenders have been caught in the act in the southern parts of the country. The first such convicted was Thierry De Balliencourt (A French National). Out of those convicted:<sup>13</sup>

Australian	1
Belgian	1
British	1
Canadian	1
Dutch	1
French	1
German	6

<sup>12</sup> Annual Report - Central Bank of Sri Lanka 2002

<sup>13</sup> Media Archives of South Asia Partnership International

Norwegian	1
Swedish	1
Swiss	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

From the literature review, we infer that the high rate of growth of tourists is the single most important reason for the prevalence of CSEC mostly among boys though traditional culture does not permit it. The incidents have been reported only during the last two decades - growth was steady 3 – 5 times in 2500 years of history of Sri Lanka. It was difficult for the public to openly accept this phenomenon, which is evident from the fact that only in 1994 the Government recognized it as a problem. NGOs, especially PEACE, Don Bosco and ESCAPE, have played a prominent role in highlighting the problem which led to the establishment of National Child Protection Authority which is unique in South Asia and the cases against paedophiles are being followed-up.

Quite often it is the organized crime groups, which pull these innocent children into this trade. Sometimes children are not commercially benefited and they are unable to comprehend the abuse perpetrated. CST therefore makes more vulnerable than other cases of children under difficult circumstances. Whether boys were exploited even before it was tourist related or whether CST resulted in locals also became interested subsequently have not been established through studies. The large migration of mothers to gulf countries would have made the separated men to seek boys. 150,000 mothers work in the Middle East as housemaids leaving children more vulnerable to abuse (Weeramunda, 1996)<sup>14</sup>. There are no studies to indicate that such a correlation exists. Similarly, unemployment of adults could also be a contributing factor.

According to Maureen Seneviratne in Wednesday’s Children “The deplorable fact, and the appalling truth as we have discovered it to be, is that these children do not know, do not even partially comprehend the extent of the damage being done to themselves, to the wholity of themselves as persons with rights to their own bodies, their integrity and their wholesomeness by the abuse perpetrated upon them. They are so young, so small, so vulnerable.”

Given the above scenario, this study by ECPAT and SAP-Int’l during July to September, 2003 assumes significance to study whether CST has increased and if so, what are the factors promoting it.

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<sup>14</sup> Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children – A Review of South Asia – Sri Lanka – SAP - I

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Data Types

The commercial and sexual exploitation of children is present throughout the country. However, the exact universe of the problem could not be established at the beginning of the study.

Therefore the research design employed a combination of exploratory and descriptive designs. The criteria of the sampling could not be reliably ascertained and therefore the sampling was purposive.

The types of data to be collected were:

- CSEC - children currently staying at an NGO center
- Children under the care of Probation and Childcare Department.
- Children identified through child participatory research.
- Referrals by stakeholders, trishaw-pullers, hoteliers, individuals and community members.

In the various locations, all the above types of data will be approached and Children, Hoteliers and other key stakeholders were interviewed.

Given the spread of CSEC in Sri Lanka, to equip the research team to adequately address the problem SAP International organized a training programme on Child Participatory Research for various NGO's during the first week of August and the Research team was able to both learn and share their experiences to date. This training programme concentrated on familiarizing the researchers in various methods and methodologies. The following is a list of the child participatory methods that were used in the research.

1. Free Spontaneous Drawings
  - Daily Activity Mapping
  - Daily Mobility Mapping
  - General Mobility Mapping
  - Income/Resource Mapping
2. Matrix Ranking
  - Health Systems
  - Occupation
3. Visual Stimulus
4. Writing of life histories
5. Story Telling
6. Structure/ structured observation
7. Unfocused/ focused photography
8. Group/Individuals
  - Unfocussed/ Focused Discussions
9. Role Play, drama etc.
10. Recall instant/ diary: Warm up for Rapport Building, Songs and Games.



As mentioned in the introduction, this research project was conducted by South Asia Partnership International in Sri Lanka and commissioned through ECPAT International. The type of data that was to be collected, analyzed and evaluated was understandably specific in nature. During the first week of July 2003 ECPAT International organized a training programme for the various research teams in the three counties, in order to establish common ground as to research methods.

The outcome of this being the establishment of child participatory research techniques being at the forefront of data types for collection. The local research team was then debriefed as per these methods and it was together with the input of a training programme on child participatory research that the final selections as to the research methods and methodologies were confirmed.

## **2.2. Data Collection**

### ***2.2.1. Tools***

Basic Interview Guidelines were developed for children, tourism facility providers, law enforcement and other stakeholder groups. (They are annexed as part of this report.)<sup>15</sup>

These Interview schedules provided the foundation for the research team's interviews and focus group discussions.

### ***2.2.2. Methods***

Data for the research project was collected through field visits, interviews with the main stakeholder groups, information extracted through focus group meetings, observation techniques and also through the input from various support organizations.

The state services for children and legal personnel proved to be vital in establishing the background situation on CST. The National Archives, The National Library and a collection of Paper Clippings from the Documentation Section of SAP – International was deemed useful by the research team.

Despite various obstacles care has been taken to make the entire exercise as objective and unbiased as possible.

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<sup>15</sup> Annex I

## 2.3. Data Analysis

### 2.3.1. Primary Data Sources

#### *Tools – Interview Guide*

Source	NGO	Govt.	Direct
- Interview of children	x	x	x
- Tourist and facility providers	x		x
- Trishaw-pullers	x		x
- Hoteliers			x

### 2.3.2. Secondary Data Sources

- National Archives
- National Library
- Documentation of SAP-I
- NGO Documentation

The information collected using the above methodologies and those discussed during the Orientation held in Bangkok, Thailand during the month of July was analyzed using charts and tables that provided comparison of findings in the seven research areas.

## 2.4. Limitations of the Evaluations

The limitations on evaluations in this Research Project may be inferred from the many limitations that were brought about by the various difficulties faced during Research. Though the Mid Term Report contained many of the difficulties faced by the Research team an exhaustive list is submitted herewith.

It was found to be very difficult to isolate victims of Child Sex Tourism from commercially and sexually exploited children. The numbers of organizations that deal with this field particularly are minimal in existence. This is not a difficulty that was exclusive to Mt. Lavinia as the same difficulty was also faced in Anuradhapura and Trincomalee. The majority of the organizations in these areas deal with relocation and not with child sex tourism.

Some of the victim's were unwilling to share their experiences for various reasons. The team felt that this was due to the fact that firstly they felt threatened and secondly as they felt that they would not receive any final benefit from the research being conducted.

It was seen that we would need the assistance of the police in order to complete the work as many of the NGO's felt that it was mainly organized CST that was in place and isolation of the children would thus be difficult. Though the contacting the various desks of the police and the local police was not a limitation the unreported nature of the cases brought about a grave problem.

Time presented the largest difficulty. We were unable to establish that much needed rapport with the children due to the time limitations we have fixed upon ourselves. It would also have been very much more helpful if we were able to conduct the research with the aid of a larger research team.

Organized commercial sexual exploitation has resulted in the team finding it difficult in isolating stakeholders. Most of the heads of the organized teams were found to be community leaders. It is due to this reason that other members of the community remained unwilling to share their experiences. There were instances where the security of the research team was also a consideration as the team was threatened and asked not to return to the location.

The difficulty pertaining to the NGO's can be described thus. In areas such as Trincomalee and Anuradhapura there is a relative dearth of NGO's known to us which works in this particular field. It is therefore difficult to isolate and accumulate information from them. It is imperative that we mention here once again that a larger time span could have permitted a better rapport building exercise between the NGO's as well. It is felt that some of the NGO's are reluctant to divulge information, as they are concerned about the repercussions it would bring upon the children and themselves.

The methods that were discussed during the meeting in Bangkok though ideal in ascertaining the extent of child prostitution in the specified research areas was time-consuming. Though community interviews and other key stakeholder interviews were easily conducted focus group discussions presented the gravest difficulty for the research team. Another factor that merits mention is that the tourism season in Sri Lanka is being encroached upon only at present. Therefore the time period that the research was being conducted may not prove to be ideal. The tourist season in Sri Lanka is April and December.

The difficulties that are highlighted above impeded the research process and therefore resulted in limitations on qualitative evaluation being finally conducted.

### **3. INTERVIEWS**

#### **3.1 At-Risk Children<sup>16</sup>**

The children highlighted in the following interviews live or have lived in circumstances, which may or might have given rise to CST on a later occasion.<sup>17</sup>

The vulnerable children are at greater risk than the children living in normal circumstances. The vulnerability arises when the community is facing serious insecurity with regard to livelihood systems. If there had been a drought or failure of monsoon, they are denied an adult wage. Then, parents do not mind if children become wage earners. If tourism-related abuse brings in more money, the family turns a blind eye to the situation.

Another vulnerability factor is due to breaking down of family life, due to difficulties with both the parents. What initially starts as casual rifts within the family walls provides a greater risk to the children in the outside world, as they do not even realize that they are being exploited. Their life pattern is not predictable. Many are the offspring of those whose livelihood was fishing or related to plantations.

Their parents are on most occasions out working for a daily wage, and the likelihood of a responsible adult being a part of their daily lives is unlikely. These factors merit mention, as it is due to them that the children are made vulnerable to the lures presented by strangers.<sup>18</sup>

#### **3.2. Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Tourism**

Their community members, neighbours and foreigners mostly commercially and sexually exploited the child victims. However, the relationship with tourism is established in a few cases. Most of the abuse has been conducted with the support of the father as he has been availed of a monetary benefit.

These incidents have occurred when they were alone at home, while going to school through lonely areas or when visiting temple. The children were victims of circumstances. There is absence of well-organized gangs of CST.

The Children are mostly Sinhalese Buddhists and Catholics, but it cannot be definitely concluded being a Sinhalese Buddhist/Catholic is a vulnerability factor. As it is children who live in vulnerable situations and not necessarily children who are Sinhalese Buddhist/Catholics who are open to victimization.

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<sup>16</sup> The information pertaining to children is submitted in the following form. Name (Age, Sex) Other relevant Information such as Ethnicity and Place of Interview is provided in Annexure III.

<sup>17</sup> It is felt that the children be kept anonymous in the final report. The names of the children provided here are true to the knowledge of the Research team.

<sup>18</sup> The Biographies of the children are submitted as Annex II.

However it can be concluded by the interviews conducted that there has always been a presence of a “trustworthy other” in each situation where a child was victimized. Another factor that came to light in these interviews was that of the children being unaware of the extent of harm being caused to them at the initial stages. The children give in to the offenders believing that there is no harm in what is being done to them.

Though the majority of children interviewed were female, secondary data suggests that the extent of more boy victims in the tourism related sex trade is far greater. But the difficulty lay in isolating such victims. Other interviews suggested and confirmed the fact that sex tourism is an organized operation, which is difficult to penetrate. It would take a much longer period of time spent within the community to avail this research of such information.<sup>19</sup>

### **3.3. Families**

*(Community included)*

It was interviews conducted that were conducted with families, trishaw drivers, hotel management and law enforcement that ultimately proved vital to establish the extent of CST in Sri Lanka.

Even though the community frowns upon child prostitution in whatever form they are reluctant to divulge information that may or might prove detrimental to any single member of their communities. Yet it was established that the rapport building exercise conducted by the research team was effective in extracting information.

The following cases (pertaining to CST) were reported in a community interview conducted with families and other residents of Nalagadeniya, Hikkaduwa. Narigama which is situated close by is a picturesque area that is bordered by the beach. This has resulted in the children of the area constantly in touch with foreign tourists.

The children are in turn now addicted to alcohol and drugs and the community feel that this is due to the vast inflow of western tourists. Amongst the offenders that the community had identified and were not reported were:

A Swiss national, around 57 years of age, had allegedly kept a kept a child in his house for a period of 7 days. Prior to this five or six other children have also been kept within the precincts of the house. He has, according to the community presented the children with a range of bicycles, grocery shop products, etc. This incident, though observed by the community, has not been reported. The community whilst frowning upon the incident turns a blind eye to what goes on under their noses. It was ascertained by the research team that this is due to a fear that the tourism sector will deteriorate if such incidence is made known.

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<sup>19</sup> The Biographies of the children are submitted as Annex

Another German national was spoken of from Nakande, Hikkaduwa. A 30-year-old Sri Lankan man, Pala had evidently spent a long period of time in the company of this foreigner and now lives in a house specifically erected for him by the German. Pala himself is a family man with three children. There are suggestions that he also associates with other youngsters. He would lure them in with cigarettes, heroin and cannabis. They were uncertain as to what takes place between Pala and the youngsters.

Lastly, there was a German around the age of 55; Nayakande, Hikkaduwa who would visit Sri Lanka every six months. He used to mainly associate with young boys (around 10 boys at a time), all the boys were under the age of 18. The community was adamant in saying that the two of the boys were definitely used for sexual purposes. The children were given food/drink/money and bicycles. The two boys are 16 and 18 years.

They went on to say that the managers of the guesthouses provide the tourists with anyone that they require. The most wanted are from their perspective young girls and boys. If they are unable to isolate such children from the immediate precincts the managers are willing to go as far as Ambalangoda and Unawatuna to provide the required number and type of children.

Key activists in the trade also include the tour guides who operate in the area. Their main aim is to avail the tourists of everything they could possibly want - even if it means procuring children for these purposes. It is very convenient to find children that fall into the categories requested.

In Lovigahawatte, Galle, there is a possibility that CST takes place on a large scale. This is due to the fact that the village lies bordering the sea and that there is a brothel being run by the so-called "leader" of the community. This brothel consists of girls mostly above the age of 20. Although not present at the time, girls below the age of 18 were also solicited for the same purpose.

Aside from this, the village consists of 35 families. The majority of the children attend school while a small percentage does not do so. There was one child, a 12-year-old girl who did not attend school but with her 7-year-old brother, visited a nearby hotel in the afternoons.<sup>1</sup> Here they met with foreigners who, in turn presented them with money & various other gifts of stationery. Along with this, they were asked to pose for photographs for the foreigners. This could be a form of child pornography in its early stages. There is also the possibility that these acts were practiced as a prelude to sexual abuse.

In Janadhiwatte, Galle another such community the situation was much the same. This as that of the preceding Lovigahawatte is a sort of colony and the people consist mostly of females. Within this community, hooch<sup>20</sup> is brewed and consumed. The main source of income for these families is from working as tea-pluckers. Alongside this, some families grow and market plants and vegetables.

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<sup>1</sup> See – Case of Thusharitha de Silva, under 3.1

<sup>20</sup> A local form of arrack

Most of the inhabitants work as laborers and are also involved in the production of hooch. Observations led to the knowledge that there are many women who are involved with men outside the village. There are a number of trishaw drivers who turn up closer to sunset with customers. Prostitution is prevalent but hardly ever involves children. There are a large number of unwanted pregnancies that take place. No one seems to care much for health.

The children of these families are not academically inclined although some of them have completed their education up to GCE O /L<sup>3</sup>, have discontinued their education, have not passed the examinations or simply do not attend school. The older children are either seeking employment if not already employed. Although there does not appear to be any evidence of sexual abuse in the form of incest, there is to a certain degree the practice of prostitution. This takes place via three-wheeler cabbies. There appear to be, amidst the various problems, land disputes.

In Anuradhapura, the following information was extracted from Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Maradankulama, a village school. The population it is felt consists mainly of ignorant people. Therefore the incidence of children being used for the purposes of sexual/non sexual abuse is higher as the likelihood is much more. Due to shame and embarrassment in the society these factors are not divulged. Few cases are therefore reported. There was an incident that was brought to the notice of the school authorities when 16-year-old Lakmali was promised in marriage to someone who is not from this village, who abused her and subsequently left, abandoned her.

False promises have also led to these children being abused. Young men from other parts of the island worm their way into society and promise marriage and other luxuries which lure these girls who believe that they have no future.

Another is the case of 14-year-old D. , who is fatherless. Her mother has remarried and we were told that she (D.) was abused by her two elder sisters – aged 16 and 17. A 14 year old is another such victim who was found pregnant. Her mother then visited the Village Kovil – Kapuwa<sup>21</sup> and asked that the baby be aborted. But she was even abused even here and once the information came about to the knowledge of the villagers it was reported to the Police. It is said that she is now in a home for children and that her sisters were subsequently married off.

The Mihintale area of Anuradhapura, and the area surrounding it is very lonely during the period under review. A relative dearth of tourists both local and foreign were to be found even though it was said and reported that the majority of CST in the area takes place here. Mihintale is a place of worship for Buddhists in the country as it is said that Buddhism was first introduced by *Arahath Mahinda* to Sri Lanka at this location.

The vendors are generally under the age of 18, and sell flowers for worship as means of making a living. The tour guides in the area are between the ages of 22 and 30 years of

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<sup>3</sup> General Certificate of Education – Ordinary Level

<sup>21</sup> Kapuwa – Head of the Kovil (Hindu place of worship)

age and are all male. It is said that they provide the tourists with anything and everything they require. They are allegations aimed at them professing that they also engage in homosexual activities with the tourists.

Information received from the community and the army camp follows is as follows: there are a large number of sex workers in the area to be found between 9 to 10 in the morning and 3 to 5 evening. Mostly are over the age of 25. There are a few others who is it said that indulge in homosexual activities. They are paid sex workers but the age remains to be considered.

It is felt that there are children below the age of 18 who are sex workers in the area. But it is very secretive and it is difficult to ascertain the extent as a result. There are children who come from both Anuradhapura and the adjoining areas. There are many Trishaw drivers who are also involved in the trade, and they are prepared to supply (as was found in all areas of research) whoever is required. Everyone is constantly on the alert as they afraid of the consequences they might have to face as a result of the constant police raids.

It is a case of organized prostitution that takes place in the area or so can be ascertained There are a few hospital workers as well who are involved in homosexual activities. It is said that they prefer youngsters between the ages of 15 and 20 and use them for homosexual activities on a constant basis.

Community elders from Hikkaduwa narrated the following case; it has not been reported to the police and remains to be documented. “success stories” such as these have resulted in the high interest for involvement in child sex tourism.

An Englishman who is assumed to be around 40 years of age constantly visits Hikkaduwa, staying for a relatively long period of time. One female was seen visiting him on a daily basis, no one is sure as to what services were rendered but she was paid well. Though she was unwilling and unhappy in the situation she was forced to visit him on a daily basis as a result of the threats posed by her mother. She was 16 years old at the time. It is said that the mother felt that this was the quickest and easiest method in which to earn money.

Her name is S., it is said that the Englishman would reside in the Lovely Hotel and other hotels on various occasions.<sup>22</sup> Soon the girl was with child, and according to the community the child was aborted and the relations between the Englishman and S. continued regardless. It is said that the Englishman returned soon after and was married to S. as he claimed to have fallen “head over heels in love with her.” S. was aged 19 at the time of marriage.

After the wedding took place it is said that both S. and the Englishman left to England. No one knows anything of S. whereabouts at the moment. This is an extremely popular

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<sup>22</sup> The Research team attempted to enter this hotel, which is situated behind the Local Police Station but was denied entry as one needs to book the hotel three to four days in advance. This hotel has been identified by the community, as a place in which CST is rampant, and caters for foreign tourists.



case in the area. Another such case that was spoken of quite frequently was that of the Swiss. The facts are laid out as follows.

The offender is a Swiss who is around fifty years old. It is said that he only visited Sri Lanka for the purposes of sexual gratification and that he is only fond of young boys. The children are from Neelawatte, Narigama all close to Hikkaduwa. The one boy who is said to be aiding and abetting is considered to be around 23 years of age.

He aids the trade by bringing young children for the use of the foreigners. It is said that he acts as “pimp” and earns a hefty living from the trade.

For the community, the situation in Negombo has undergone much change. Though CST is considered to be a fully blown problem in the area they feel that the present situation is much better to what exists in Mount Lavinia and the Southern Belt. Many of the children who trapped and the trade are surprisingly, as they noted, school children, who visit the beach area once school is over in search of pocket money. They felt that the key persons involved were those involved in the hotel trade in the area. The existence of the tourist police has greatly helped in reducing the event of CST.

The following information was gathered from the community of the Mount Lavinia area. Commercial sexual exploitation of children has taken place for nearly a decade with the incidence fluctuating. It is felt that parents encourage their children to participate in these activities, as it is a quick and easy way of making money (this sentiment was echoed in all areas where CST was prevalent.)

Poverty seems to be the main contributing factor. There are a number of foreign employment bureaus that have opened up in the area which make false promises to everyone who enters. Due to this most of the community is unemployment and is constantly on the lookout for anything that can be done to make quick money. But the community was quick to point out that the Police is now more aware and willing to help.

### **3.4. Local NGOs**

The following information was availed of from local NGO’s combating the event of CST. Though there were hardly any local NGO’s that worked specifically in the field of CST many have been availed of information through their rapport with the community and the children.

#### *ESCAPE*

ESCAPE was established in September 1995 with the goal of Eradicating Sexual Child Abuse, Prostitution and Exploitation. The three-pronged focus, which is eradication, prevention and rehabilitation, is realized through the four distinct programs. ESCAPE is ideally an organization that deals mainly with sexually abused children island-wide. It is not an organization that conducts research into the matter but an organization that provides psychological therapy and counselling to children who have been so exploited. It is currently constructing a home “Kedella”, in Wellampitiya as a place of refuge for

victims of sexual abuse. ESCAPE also seeks legal consul via the Attorney General's Office, in the hope of securing some reparation for the victims.

It is important to note here the existence of an in-house counsellor who is available at all times for the benefit of the children. The children are encouraged to use ESCAPE as a retreat from home and school. The staff at ESCAPE felt that the most probable age of the victim lies (from their experience) between 9 and 13. The difficulty is in eliciting information as the children have not only been the victims of sexual abuse but also have been threatened on various occasions. This in turn leads to the children being unable to place their fullest trust in everyone.

### *PEACE*

Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere is one of the pioneer organisations battling child sexual exploitation in Sri Lanka and has been in existence for a number of years. It marked it's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in it's campaign to raise awareness of the issue of CSEC in Sri Lanka and also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the first pilot project undertaken after intensive research studies were completed on the areas at risk, the children most seriously threatened and the methodology adopted by both local and foreign abusers to violate Article 34 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

PEACE has, in fact, been central to many child sex tourism prevention efforts and conducts tremendous rehabilitation and support work. Their role in the Sri Lankan battle against CSEC and CST is an enormous one.

### *Don Bosco Home*

Don Bosco is an organization run by the Salesian Priests and situated in Negombo. It caters specifically to sexually abused boys. The strategies of the organization are being constantly modified in response to the community need which arose in the late eighties to provide shelter for exploited children, to protect them, help them, discover them, develop their sense of self dignity and to realize their self esteem so that they may live responsibly leading a socially productive life.

Non-formal education is provided to the children who are not enrolled in a formal school. Don Bosco, which is considered as a home away from home is the ideal setting as a child is sent to formal school near the centre and assisted in his studies through tutorials. Don Bosco is engaged in community outreach programmes. This is a preventive programme that aims at empowering the families and communities to stop the children from being thus exploited.

### *Sisters of Nisala Diya Sevena (Still Waters)*

The home is primarily involved in rehabilitation of sexually abused young females. It is run by the Good Shepherd Sisters. The philosophy of the home is that "one person is of more value than the whole world." This in turn reflects the love and care provided to each and every individual. The sisters are deeply committed to the spiritual healing and integral development of girls and women.

The objective of this home is to assist in every possible manner children and young girls to become meaningful individuals and responsible citizens with an awareness of their self-dignity. The objectives are partly said to be achieved by preparing these girls to face life by showing them the importance of the development, good character traits including respect for authority, honesty, trustworthiness and corporation in daily life.

The home offers counseling and trauma support. There is a professional counsellor visiting the home on a regular basis and addressing the psychological needs while the spiritual needs are seen to by the sisters.

*Mr. Chatura Welivetiya, Chairman - HELP – O, Galle.*

Human and Environment Links Progressive Organization (HELP – O), is a government registered NGO, serving in low income communities of Sri Lanka. Their vision is to implement systematic resource management programmes for improving living standards of the poor communities through participatory development approaches. Amongst their projects are health programmes, human rights and child protection programmes.

HELP – O was established in 1998 works together with parents, elders and community leaders to combat violations of child rights and freedoms. They are instrumental in providing legal help to victims of child abuse. They also mobilize the media in order to bring to the attention of the public and government officials and concerned parties the issues and censures of child rights.

*Sarvodaya*

Interviews with Sarvodaya suggest there is evidence to say that such a situation may exist in Mankadawela and Basawakkulama. Yet most of the incidence of CST he believes takes place due to incest. No one is interested in finding fault and prosecuting offenders, as they are all members of their own families. There have been no instances or so it seems where there has been a monetary exchange of sorts between those who have been abused and the others. As hardly any organization has researched into this matter in Anuradhapura before there is hardly any knowledge of the prevailing situation whatever it may be.

*Family Rehabilitation Centre*

Interviews with FRC Chairperson concluded that there was a brothel house in Dahayyagama, which was raided by the police and is therefore no longer in existence. Three-wheeler drivers are it is felt involved in the entire process very heavily. As in Mount Lavinia it was seen that women are taken away with the promise of foreign jobs but are not availed of such. These women are then taken away for a period of between one and two hours and used for these purposes – but yet again, these women it must be mentioned are older than our age limit. The fee changes with the time spent with each female.

There are rumours that there are children between the ages of 16 and 19 in these places but no one is yet sure of the facts. There are other assumptions that the politicians of that

area are also involved very heavily with the trade. Therefore raids are not conducted into the homes of where they feel that there may be political influence.

#### *Samadeepa Center*

NGO – Supporting Education, Providing Opportunities to improve the creative abilities of the children. Advocating rights and duties of children.

#### *Save the Children*

It was ascertained that this organization deals mainly with relocation. Yet it was established that they knew of the existence of CST. The following information was received. There is about one case reported every day however these cases don't appear to be followed up.

#### *Shakthi*

This organization, which was initiated in 2000, is heavily involved in violence against women, including domestic violence. Amongst the various organizations funding this are PEACE, SCF and IDT. This NGO works mainly with eleven Grama Seva Divisions in the Trincomalee District. In Batukatchchiya, Tharugaswewa, a case was brought first to the notice of some social workers and subsequently to the police of a 17-year-old Sinhalese boy raping a 3-year-old Muslim boy nine months ago (Dec., 2002).

The 17-year-old boy is the eldest of a family of five children. His two younger sisters are married and he has two younger brothers as well. The boy used to go to school but dropped out in search of a job and though he used to work part time at a salt factory, he was found to be unemployed at the time the authorities had remanded him. His father too is unemployed and is an alcoholic. The social workers who had reported this case to the police suspect the frustrations of unemployment and possibly the culture of viewing pornographic movies by youngsters in the vicinity. They also suspect that he may have molested other children in this way, but proof is lacking to establish this fact.

### **3.5. State Child Protection Services**

Interviews conducted with state child protection services, though comprehensive, shed minimal light on the incidence of CST. This is mainly due to the fact that many of these officials come across children who have been victims of rape, incest and abuse and not victims of procuring for prostitution.

This is evidence of the fact that even though CST is prevalent in nearly all areas of research the unreported natures of the event of CST has resulted in no proper corrective action being taken by the State Authorities when it comes to treating victims of CST. A victim of CST who was interviewed by the research team gave light to this factor.

This youngster engaged in prostitution even as a resident of a state protection home. But it must be mentioned that this isolated case does not dictate that the state homes are ill equipped. It signifies the fact that these homes may not be able to cater to the specific needs of a particular child or victim.

*Ms. Iranganie Amarasiri, Probation Officer - Ruhunu Lama Nivasaya, Galle.*

The Ruhunu Lama Nivasaya, which was established in 1950's, and caters mainly for children who are referred to it by the Magistrates Court of Galle and the neighbouring areas. The office is instrumental in making adoption possible. It houses fifty such victims of abuse but Ms. Amarasiri was quick to point out that they are yet to note cases of abuse by foreigners.

The Ruhunu Lama Nivasaya houses both boys and girls. The Magistrates Court and the Police refer the children who are between 10 and 18 to the home.

*Ms. Gopika Lokuge, Buddhist Women's Society Yashodara Home for Children*

One special feature of the Yashodara Home for Children which falls under the purview of the Probation and Child Care office is that it works very much a like a boarding home, for the girls are provided with an opportunity to visit their homes during school holidays. The children who are between 7 and 17 are housed in picturesque surroundings. The home functions on a daily timetable. Though the government funds it its administrative work comes under the purview of the Buddhist Women's Society of Galle.

*Mr. Chandrasiri, Head of Department, Southern Provincial Council Department of Probation and Child Care Services Remand Home for Boys, Galle*

One feature of this particular home, which is a government organisation is that the numbers are uncertain. This is mainly due to the fact that the home is used as a stopover point for victims of abuse. Therefore there are minimal facilities available at the home with regard to education and recreation.

Two cases were isolated at the home as victims of sexual abuse. The high priest of the village temple had abused both of these boys who were monks at a nearby temple. (The details are listed above) Another case that is of relevance is that three brothers (consisting of a pair of twins) aged 16 and 15, who were sexually abused by a foreigner. The boys' father was a drunkard who supported the act. The boys' sisters (about 6 or 7 sisters) solicited this white-skinned customer via a broker. The broker charged 2,500 /- per boy per day. The boys however received only about 200 /- each. The foreigner's nationality is unknown. The foreigner supplied food & beverage to the boys with whom he spent approximately a month. All proceedings took place within the premises of a hotel. A significant fact in this case was that this man required a boy three times a day.

*Dr. Palitha Banadara, K. B. Lokubanda and Ruwan (Anuradhapura District Hospital)*

According to the above-mentioned sources though there is a large number of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and rape cases that have been heard of the probability of these

cases being reported is minimal. They have yet to hear of cases pertaining to child sex tourism.

The biggest problem plaguing the area at the moment is the high rate of suicide and sexual harassment and not prostitution. Pregnancies of children between the ages of 14 and 18 from the period of 1997 – 540 whilst the number in 2002 was 826.

There have been reports of three youngsters who have been contracted STDs. There is also a report of two young girls of the ages of 5 and 8 who have been affected with Gonorrhoea. Another case of a young boy of 12 being affected by an STD and being hospitalized is also cited. The existence of a group of gypsies in Thambuththegama was also divulged. These officials of the hospital were unable to comment on any incidence of child sex in that area though they say that it might be prevalent.

*Probation and Child Care Department Chairperson, North Central Province (Ranjith Ariyaratne)*

In Medirigiriya during the last six months there have been 22 such cases that were reported. But the majority of cases remain to be on Sexual Harassment in the province. They feel that there is a larger incidence of cases as of sexual abuse, harassment, etc. but as with the other locations there is little reporting.

Children who are found to be victims are taken to the Moratuwa Paraththa Children's home.<sup>23</sup> A case that was reported from Pollonaruwa was that of a monk who took to abusing young children. There are also claims that the largest number of brothel houses is also in Anuradhapura and that the majority of those who are involved are army personnel. The over 950 three-wheeler drivers within the town limits are heavily involved in the trade and the main reasons for prostitution in the area are the temperature, locality and climate at Anuradhapura.

There is a large number of people who come to Anuradhapura for work etc from the rural areas and they are lured into both prostitution and soliciting for prostitution. The large consumption of alcohol has also helped and aided the situation. The majority of the parents of these children have immigrated to other countries for work etc. A lot of claims have come from the Mihintale.

*R. M. S. Ratnayake, Deputy Director – Administrative, Assistant Secretary's Office – Anuradhapura*

There are very few instances where child abuse by foreigners has been reported. But there is a reduction in the number of tourists to the area and that may have helped. Though there is no evidence to say that children below the age of 18 are to be found in brothels, there is hearsay evidence that shows that the brothels closer to the Nuwera Wewa house children. Prostitution was a huge problem when the Army personnel were

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<sup>23</sup> Situated on the outskirts of Colombo

around but not since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the government and the Liberation of Tamil Tigers Eelam.

*Director –Dr. Waidyaratne (Same as above)*

All the cases that are reported to them are through the police. Though many children are victims in this instance there is very little instance of them being reported. No cases have been reported of child prostitution through monetary means. There are a large number of tourist hotels in the area and it is reported that many engage in activities there. There is once again very little reportage being done. Many of the young girls do get involved with the army and other military personnel. But very little is being done.

*Asoka Boys Home*

*Divisional Secretariat Office Trincomalee*

*Refugee Camp – Puthukudiyurupu, Trincomalee*

*Gramaseveka, Alasthota<sup>24</sup>*

Interviews conducted showed that although CST cases have not been reported to them that they are dealing with numerous cases of rape and sexual abuse of children within families.

### **3.6. Law Enforcement Personnel**

Law enforcement in Sri Lanka seems to be comprehensive. The gravest problem faced by nearly all the Police stations and law enforcement officials visited and interviewed being the low reportage of cases of CST. As many of the interviews conducted gave light to the fact that even though the police know of the existence of CST in specific areas and sometimes even know who the key stakeholders in the trade are they are unable to apprehend these offenders. Their constant fear is of accusations filed against them for “unlawful arrest.”

The police officials were unanimous in stating that a more responsible community coupled with a police force that is on “first-name basis” with the community might prove to be the ideal weapon in combating CST.

The success of such a suggestion is evident in Negombo. Due to the high media coverage generated in Negombo during the recent past as a result of campaigns launched by NCPA a specialized tourist police was established. The officers of this police station work with the community to combat problems faced by the locals and the tourists, which result from the industry. Though small in size this police station and the success of the officers speaks for itself. According to the community and hotel management CST has reduce due to the existence of this police station.

Furthermore in Sri Lanka 33 Women and Children Police Desks have been established to ensure a more woman and child-friendly law enforcement system. These desks are

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<sup>24</sup> Gramaseveka – Village Headman

headed by female police officers. The major areas of activity includes investigating complaints and taking cases to court. Priority is given to child abuse, particularly cases of paedophilia, and domestic violence. The Department of Police has published a work entitled Handbook on Child Abuse for Police Officers. The handbook gives practical advice and guidance on how to detect and deal with various forms of child abuse, including sexual abuse. The National Child Protection Authority in Sri Lanka has also produced a teachers' guide on corporal punishment and other forms of child abuse for teachers.

### *Hikkaduwa - Police*

The interview conducted with the Officer in Charge of the Local Police Station in Hikkaduwa yielded the following results.

The police feel that even though there is talk of Child Sex Tourism in the area the fact that cases are not reported has resulted in the offenders not being punished and CST flourishing in the above areas. There are raids conducted by the police to various massage clinics and brothel houses but once the raid is complete due to the well-informed community network many of the pimps and the children move on to another location. The offenders are mostly German or Swiss and are interested in young boys.

The largest number of cases that have been reported pertains to the sexual abuse of young boys and the number of cases that have clogged the courts system dealing with CST during the past one and half years number between 10 and 15.

Cases that have been reported to date pertaining to CST:

1. Suspect – Swiss, Victim – Boy (11), Area – Gonapinnuwela Case is pending at the Supreme Court, the Swiss National is on bail.
2. Halpathota Certified School Case - 2002. There were allegations levelled at the school principal saying that he was giving over the children to various individuals and obtaining money. The number that was reported were two, where the children were aged between 10 and twelve. But there is reason to believe that most of the cases in the school itself went unreported as there was a large social stigma attached to the entire proceedings.
3. Milla, Hikkaduwa. A foreigner residing in his grandmothers' house abused young Chamira. 3/3/03. Pinkanda, Hikkaduwa. 11-year-old Chamira taken into the forest and abused by 15-year-old, Gamini.
4. The promise of money and various other luxuries lured 10-year-old Sanjeewa to a trap of abuse set up by 49-year-old Gnanaratne. He was presented and gifted with various luxuries but no money passed hands. (06/08/01)



### *Galle - Police*

The following cases and other information were obtained from Superintendent Nannayakkara the Officer in Charge of the Women and Children's Bureau of the Galle Police Station. The number of sexually motivated cases that have been reported to the Police Station during the period 2002 to 2003 number thus, Sexual Harassment – 3, Sexual Abuse – 4 and Rape – 3, including one case involving a German Tourist (53)

According to the police station hardly any complaints or reports have been made regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of Children in Galle during the past year. People are reluctant to divulge information on this, especially where children are concerned. Yet this does not mean that such activities do not take place. For though there have been complaints of rape and harassment there have been very few instances that have been cited pertaining to children being involved in the trade with foreigners.

### *Mihintale - Police*

There are many cases of rape that occur in the Mihintale Area. As in the other Police Stations very few of these cases seem to be reported. There are few or very nearly no instances when the children have been involved and police have to come to know of the fact. But there are many instances when the children get married at a very young age and conceive. Thus resulting in an entire generation of young parents as well. But this cannot be helped, as these are legal marriages. The police feel that there are many tour guides around the area who do not possess the license yet still do practice, and might have a hand in procuring children for sexual purposes

### *Anuradhapura Police*

The following information was availed of from the Crime Division of the Anuradhapura Police, which is a Specialized Unit that covers 24 local Police Stations in the Anuradhapura and Pollonnanaruwa Districts. They feel that according to their experiences there are many adult prostitutes in the area as there is a great want and demand for the trade. There are also many brothel houses that function in the area. But it is considerably less as a result of the many raids that have taken place under the guidance of the Police. There are allegations levelled at mostly trishaw drivers for aiding and abetting the trade.

It is said that many young girls under the age of 18 are involved in the trade; most of them hail from Anuradhapura, Pollonnanaruwa and the neighboring areas.

An interview conducted with the Officer in Charge of Women and Children's Desk of the Anuradhapura Police provided the following information. There are a large number of children who live close to the *Udamaluwa*<sup>25</sup>. There is a saying or a rumour that the

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<sup>25</sup> The Udamaluwa is an area close to the Sacred Bo Tree which is situated in Anuradhapura. Anuradhapura is a city of cultural interest and in most occasions the first stop in the city is at the Sri Maha Bodhiya (Where the Uda Maluwa is situated)

children in this area are involved in Prostitution as this a place that all the tourists visit. There are a number of cases lodged from the Anuradhapura area pertaining to sexual harassment. Most often the cases include those whose parents are no longer with them or have migrated out of the country. There is evidence to show that a lot of the three wheel drivers are very much involved in the entire practice.

The numbers of sexually motivated cases reported include Rape 63 (2002) and 120 in 2003. There were quite a number of massage centers and brothel houses that were in existence but most were raided and are considered to be no longer in existence.

#### *Dehiwela - Police*

The following information was availed of from an interview conducted with the Women and Children's Bureau of the Police Station. There are very few reported cases. There are almost no cases that have been reported pertaining to abuse by white foreigners. But they feel that there is unreported prostitution taking place on a regular basis. The cases that were reported include 15 in 2002, 11 to date in 2003.

#### *Mount Lavinia - Police*

Interview conducted with an official of the Women and Children's Desk. There is information that children under the age of 18 do engage in commercial sex, but no reporting has taken place thus far.

#### *Trincomalee – Police*

There are no reported incidences of CST in the area, but the police have reason to believe of such activities in existence in Nilaveli area. They believe that the only prostitution that takes place in Trincomalee is that pertaining to adults between the ages of 25 and 30.

#### *Negombo Police*

The following cases were reported to the Police. There were three cases of CST during 1999 and 2000. Thereafter, all cases reported were that of rape & molestation by close relatives or even a 'boyfriend'.

NJ (of Norwegian origin) was charged with having indecent sexual intercourse with a young boy of 15 years of age. The boy was paid a sum of money, possibly around 2,000 /- or 3,000/- . Case was taken to High court, where accused was charged with the crime & awarded 14 years of RI, while having to pay Rs. 100,000 to the plaintiff. The boy was held in a remand home in Pannipitiya and subsequently returned to his home

EOL (of Swedish origin) was charged with having indecent sexual intercourse and taping Video Session with a young boy who was 14 years of age at various restaurants and hotels High Court awarded Rs. 100,000 compensation to the victim and 14 years

imprisonment for the perpetrator. (It was said that the boy was paid between 2,000 and 3,000 per session)

PJ (of German origin). victim, Abdul (15 years of age) from Anuradhapura was a street child who had been selling magazines at the Negombo Bus Stand, it was here that he had befriended the perpetrator. Boy was paid Rs 5,000 per day for massaging the offender. Once the offence was reported the offender was caught and taken to the Magistrate's court. Here Bail was granted and he left the country. The boy was initially in Pannipitiya and thereafter brought to Don Bosco, from where he escaped.

### **3.7. Legal Professionals**

The law in Sri Lanka pertaining to children and abuse of children has undergone much change during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many amendments were made to the century old Penal Code during 1995 and 1998 as a response to the findings of a Presidential Task Force and the establishment of the National Child Protection Authority. Many new offences too were created. Following is information availed of from legal professionals involved in the field of CST, child rights and child abuse.

*Subhashini Dayananda, Attorney at Law, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo.*

This organization, which was initiated in 1991, is involved in education and research on human rights throughout the island. During the interview conducted the following facts were brought to light.

Sri Lanka is considered a haven for all sex tourists, with the incidence on the rise even after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks in the USA. It is necessary for government to take necessary action if they are to combat sex tourism growing into a thriving practice in the country. This organization has not been actively involved with the field, as their main focus is education and the elimination of ignorance.

The legislation available to combat child sex tourism is found mostly in the Penal Code and its amendments. Enforcement of these laws is comes with many practical problems. The foreigners who are involved in the trade are very powerful unlike the children. Even though laws to protect children exist in the country, there are not always effective due to the economic and social situation in the country. The children are generally from poor families whilst the offenders are mainly from richer families.

The following are a collection of statutes of the Parliament of Sri Lanka relating to Child Abuse:

1. Penal Code (1883) and the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995
2. Children and Young Persons Ordinance No. 48 of 1939
3. Women, Children and Young Persons Ordinance No. 47 of 1956
4. Children and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act No. 48 of 1956
5. Vagrants Ordinance No. 4 of 1841

6. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act No. 20 of 1995
7. The Compulsory attendance of children at schools regulation No. 01 of 1997
8. Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 29 of 1998
9. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act No. 19 of 1997
10. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1998

(All legislative provisions pertaining to the above are attached as Annex IV)

### **3.8. Tourism Authorities**

The interview conducted with the Ceylon Tourist Board yielded information that was used in the analysis as to where and when CST is most likely to take place.

### **3.9. Tourism Facility Owners**

#### ***3.9.1. Hotels and Guesthouses***

The following is a summary of all the information collected through interviews and Focus group discussions with hotel management and guesthouse owners.

Here it was discovered that even though sex tourism is considered to be rampant in almost all areas along the coast it is not so. Many of the hoteliers feel that the lack of interest in CST in Negombo for instance is spurred on by the community and the Police. This has indeed resulted in a minimization of the incidence of CST. Recent cases pertaining to paedophilic activities were brought to light by both the National Child Protection Authority and the national media. This has aided the reduction of such cases in Negombo.

As the hoteliers pointed out the standard tour of Sri Lanka is that of three weeks. Two of these are spent along the coast whilst one is spent as a round tour of the country. As a result of this, tourists who visit areas such as Anuradhpura and Polonnaruwa are unable to meet up with children and establish a rapport with them. Therefore the incidence of CST down the coastal belt is much larger.

In Trincomalee, tourism has yet to be popularized. Even though the Peace Accord was signed in 2001, there are very few tourists who visit the area as opposed to the numbers visiting the South and South Western Belt. The incidence of CST resulting from local tourists is also at a minimum, with the gravest problem faced by Child Protection Authorities in the area being child labour.

The existence of CST is not recognised by the hotel trade. Neither does the Hotel Trade have a set code of conduct to prevent its occurrence. There are no reputable organizations that are involved in advocating CST either. In Hikkaduwa, one of the gravest problems faced by hoteliers is that of the “Beach Boys”. The hoteliers are unable to keep them away from their guests. It is an organized and established operation.

The easy money is the ultimate lure. The trade is encouraged by the community and is believed to be supported by state services. It was pointed out that the average family of the area is dependent on the daily wages brought in by (in most cases) fisher folk and other daily labourers. Any extra money is welcomed with open arms.

Most of the tourists who encourage CST lodge in village houses. They have established contact in the area and keep in constant touch with the villagers. The literacy rate in the coastal areas is also, according to many hoteliers, minimal as opposed to that of other parts of the country. There are also a high number of children who are from broken families.

Many of the children who have got involved with tourists are considered successful by their peers and families. As on later occasions it could be seen that it was these children who run their own business, own houses and vehicles. All of which is on most occasions sponsored by the tourists themselves.

These “Success Stories” have spurred on CST, with the children and pimps meeting up with the tourists the moment they arrive in town. These unemployed youngsters are more than content to “hang out” with the tourists, imitate them and do whatever it takes to please them.

They felt that the value system of the communities affected by CST should undergo change if CST is not to prevail. The non-existence of a formal system of education and a viable alternative to making this “quick and easy” money has resulted in the situation as it is today.

Both the Hoteliers and the Guesthouse owners felt that effective enforcement procedures and an interest by both the state, hotel and tourism industry might minimize the incidence of CST in the future.

### ***3.9.2. Taxi drivers and allied services***

These interviews gave light to the fact that Trishaw drivers are an integral part of the in child sex industry in Sri Lanka. It was said and is documented that the first point of entry into the trade of child sex tourism be it in the form of offenders or tourists is in the Trishaw drivers. The multitude of Trishaw drivers in the locality makes this an easy task. The following includes information extracted through Interviews and Focus group discussions conducted with Trishaw drivers and other service providers attached to the tourism industry.

#### *Galle - Trishaw drivers*

There are many who approach the Trishaw drivers for Prostitution. Most prefer and request younger girls but this is not deemed to be necessary, in the absence of younger girls they are willing to comply with those above the age of 18. In most cases the procurement of the girls is through brokers and trishaw driver. And the offenders in Galle

are mostly locals as against the majority foreigners in other regions of the South and South Western Coast. There is news of the existence of girls under the age of 18, but they refrain from divulging the real and correct age. It is very secretive and excessively expensive trade.

#### *Galle - Massage Clinics and Brothel Houses*

There are places, which the trishaw drivers pointed out were massage clinics employing children under the age of 18 and it was proved that these were visited with the aid of the aid of the same trishaw drivers.

The first place yielded no results as there were only two prostitutes present and they were both above the age of 35. There were six at the second house place but there again they were much older, one girl who claimed to be 22 looked much younger. The third house that was visited was much the same. At the fourth brothel house the research team was unable to speak to the younger ones due to ethical considerations.

The involvement of children in these activities especially through brothel houses is rare and very secretive. The practice has not been brought to the notice of the authorities and the children are thus involved in the trade mainly through the procurement of the children by their own relatives.

#### *Anuradhapura - Trishaw drivers*

There are very few foreigners who visit at the moment. They hardly ever stay around in the area, the maximum time span being just one day. The guides near the main temples associate very closely with the foreigners as they are the ones who instruct them as to what, where and when they should visit. There are very few children who are involved in trading around the area. Hardly any information has been received about prostitutes under the age of 18.

The majority of sex workers in the area are around the age of 25 to 30. There are very few of the younger one's to be seen. The Trishaw drivers reported that these activities take place but only on the sly, and involve mainly German and Swiss Tourists. The tourists seem to prefer children between the ages of 16 to 18 years of age.

#### *Negombo – Trishaw drivers*

Here it was claimed that 14 – 18 year olds travel to the area and solicit customers through three wheelers. They went on to profess that most of these activities take place close to the main hotels in the case of foreign tourists whilst the local tourists are associated with the activities closer to other guesthouses.

It was said that the foreigners who make use of these children subsequently gift them with money to purchase motorcycles, three wheeler and guesthouses. The parents are mostly unaware of the situation as the children join up with the foreigners quite willingly

as they are availed of many fringe benefits. The children are mostly between the ages of 8 and 16.

On one such occasion the police were compelled to return these foreigners to their home countries. As they had abused two children and this factor was brought to the notice of the authorities. One child was 13 whilst the other was 15. These Trishaw drivers feel that when Sri Lankans are involved the victims are mostly females over the age of 20 years. .

The three-wheeler drivers feel that it is mostly Swedish and German tourists who visit the area. If the parents are aware they aid the trade as they are also availed of the fringe benefits. There are many small time guesthouses that are the active participants of the trade. Here it is not uncommon for the foreigners to avail themselves of the pictures of the children the hotel cum guesthouse also provides tablets (narcotics) for the use of the foreigners.

Most of the tourists stay in the rooms of the guesthouses, which are away from the main town, and these activities take place in the rooms of the said guesthouse. Amongst the rest houses involved are Nilwala, Rathiya, and the Victoria Garden Guesthouse.

The police are aware of the situation but do nothing to combat it. (this is contrary to another opinion professed by the community living closer to the beach and thereby closer to the tourists) One guesthouse in particular, which warrants mention is where the pictures of the children and the fixed prices are brought to the notice of the foreigners at the Katunayake Airport in itself. Rs.150 is given to the three wheel driver who brings these foreigners to this place and a room costs between Rs. 400 to 500.

#### *Anuradhapura - Trishaw drivers*

One incident that is common knowledge in the area was narrated by a group of trishaw drivers. One evening after 8, a young girl had been waiting at a bus stand when a group of army soldiers abducted her. She was taken to the camp and was forced to spend the entire night within the premises of the camp.

She was presented with a large amount of money when she was granted permission to leave the camp and therefore (it is said) failed to lodge any complaints against the army. Even though it was not reported the police had come to know and taken the army personnel to courts

#### *Negombo – Female Vendors, Beach*

They claim to have been in the trade of selling garments for the past 11 or 12 years. Within that time period they said, there have been cases of CST but, latterly the frequency with which it occurred has deteriorated. One reason for this is possibly the fact that a tourist police station has been constructed along side the belt of beach hotels. The major hotels have prohibited tourists taking children or anyone else for that matter, up to

their rooms. Another possible reason is that clergy have advised & advocated awareness among villagers & homes.

These women however, did mention that currently, although it does not openly take place, there are instances when foreigners (white-skinned) are seen talking to & possibly enticing young children. Several of these women make certain their children are not victimized thus, taking necessary steps to prevent them from visiting the beach.

*Negombo - Trishaw drivers*

When speaking to trishaw drivers, we gathered that they are not directly involved in any form of soliciting. We were told that cases of abuse take place but that sexual exploitation of children commercially does not occur, although once upon a time it did. The trishaw drivers were not completely willing to divulge any information for fear of being reported to local authorities & such. Therefore the possibility exists that these drivers may have withheld a large amount of information.

*Negombo - Shop owners*

Certain shop owners, in the vicinity of the beach admitted that such incidents have taken place in the past, but what happens currently is only on a small scale.



## 4. SUMMARY ANALYSIS

### 4.1. Where does CST take place?<sup>26</sup>

#### 4.1.1. Geographical Location (Region, City, District, Street)

Child sex tourism is rampant in beachfront areas. This is light of the fact that the comparison is brought about between the South and South Western Belt of Sri Lanka as opposed to the Eastern Belt and that of the central part of the Island (i.e. Anuradhapura). Through the research conducted from July to September it was ascertained that the geographical location has had an enormous impact on CST.

Hikkaduwa is plagued by full-blown child sex tourism. This is not new. For the past few years the media and other organizations involved in the sphere have highlighted the fact that it is in Hikkaduwa that the major part of CST takes place<sup>27</sup>. Negombo, though a haven for child sex tourists during the past few years is a place in which the situation has changed dramatically. It was said and is understood that the large amount of publicity that was generated in Negombo has resulted in the Community and the Police taking active steps to prevent the incidence of child sex tourism.

The establishment of a Tourist Police Station close to the hotels in Negombo has had a large impact on the reduction of the incidence of CST in Hikkaduwa. Interviews conducted with community members and observation led to the establishment of the fact that the Tourist Police is much feared and revered by the community.

The rapport that has built up between community members and the police is evident at every point. This, the researchers believe is the key factor for the reduction of CST in the area.

Though CST prevails in Colombo, Mt. Lavinia and Galle, the incidence of reporting on it is minimal. The majority of cases (pertaining to commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism) in these areas unlike those of Negombo and Hikkaduwa are those of incest and sexual harassment. Yet there were instances where the Researchers felt that incest too proved to be a prelude to sex tourism and/or prostitution.

In Anuradhapura and Trincomalee the situation is vastly different. It is said and is documented this was not so at the time of war, with the information obtained the research team was able to understand that with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the LTTE and the subsequent deployment of the troops to their home bases the incidence of prostitution whether be child sex or otherwise has reached a minimum.

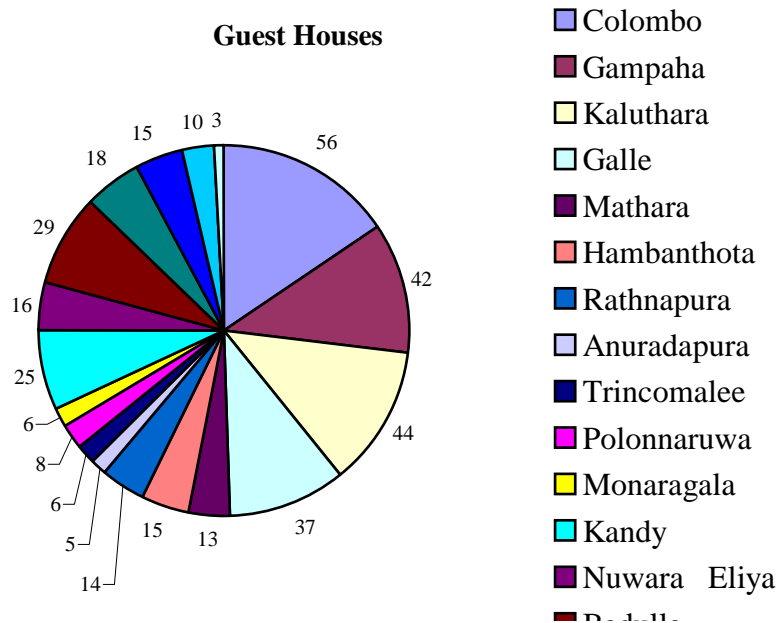
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<sup>26</sup> Map of Sri Lanka attached as Annex V

<sup>27</sup> See Introduction – Situation Assessment

During the peak of the ethnic conflict Anuradhapura was used as a rest point for the military. Child Prostitution at the time was seen to mainly related to the long periods of time that these soldiers were away from their homes and families.

Trincomalee is submitting to the impacts of tourism only of late. Compared to areas such as Hikkaduwa, Bentota and Beruwela the tourist arrivals are minimal and therefore it can be ascertained that though there is no immediate effect of CST in Trincomalee the possibility of such a trade taking place in the future is large and cannot be ignored.



The pie chart<sup>28</sup> above show that the largest number of hotels and guesthouses in Sri Lanka exist on the South and South Western coast of Sri Lanka. 25% of the tourist hotels are situated on the Southern Coast as opposed to 3%, which exists in Anuradhapura, and a further 6% that exists in Pollonnaruwa. Only 1% of the tourist hotels exist in Trincomalee. The situation is much the same even in the case of guest.

It can be ascertained that foreign tourists are minimal in existence in the central part of the country even though the government is presently taking valiant efforts to increase the interest in the cultural triangle of Sri Lanka for tourists.

Therefore it is submitted herewith that the incidence of CST in Sri Lanka takes place mainly in areas closer to the beach and down the South and South Western parts of the island. This does not say that CST might not bloom in the eastern stretch of the Island either.

<sup>28</sup> See – Interview with Tourist Board

#### **4.1.2. Type of Establishment**

From the research conducted it can be ascertained that organized prostitution that takes place as against independent prostitution. This factor was brought to light in all seven areas of research.

In Galle, most of the children are procured through known and established brokers. In Hikkaduwa, though the majority of children latch on to the tourists on an independent basis, it is on well-established grounds such as not encroaching on another's grounds etc. Even if it is not in a brothel house that the actual act takes place the soliciting of children for prostitution is through at least one adult broker. This was evident in Hikkaduwa, Mount Lavinia and Negombo.

In Trincomalee it was felt that it was child labour that ultimately gave way to a possibility of abuse of the children. Here is an area which is only recovering from the effects of drawn out ethnic conflict and it is inevitable that it will take much time before Trincomalee too falls into the ranks of Hikkaduwa and Negombo as a site for a veritable "beach hotspot".

#### **4.2. How does CST take place?**

##### **4.2.1. Initial Contact (where, when, how)**

From the information received and reported it may be ascertained that initial contact varies with the location of research. In Hikkaduwa for example the Children meet the tourists on a personal basis, as opposed to Galle where it is usually through the procurement of some such broker.

The existence of the "best friend" system proves this factor true. In Hikkaduwa, where child sex tourism is rampant, well hidden and an established operation the children meet up with the tourists as and when the tourists enter the Hikkaduwa Town premises. Information gathered from a focus group discussion brought to light the fact of the children even cording off and drawing hypothetical lines separating the various parts of Hikkaduwa. As only a certain group of children and male sex workers would function in the specified area.

The children almost, shocking as it may seem, force themselves on the tourists. They offer the tourists guided tours and souvenirs from the beachfront. This remains the identical position in nearly all of the beachfront areas of research. But in the center of the country <sup>29</sup>it is the tourists who "go in search" of the children and once they are found abuse them oblivious (in most occasions) to their age.

Most of this information was brought to light in interviews conducted with community elders and trishaw drivers. As was always the case the trishaw drivers proved to be one of the main links to reporting of CST. They maintain that once a tourist hop into their

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<sup>29</sup> In Anuradhapura

trishaws they are compelled to take them wherever they want to go and present them with services, as it is “only their job to do so.”

In the case of the more organized prostitution that takes place the initial contact person for the tourists seem to and remain to be the trishaw drivers who form an enormous part of the society in the majority of areas of research. The tourists who approach the trishaw drivers are then introduced to the “pimps” who are on most occasions the trishaw drivers themselves. The tourists are then taken to the appointed place (where the offence takes place) in this same trishaw in itself.

These factors were brought to light when the trishaw drivers themselves confessed that they too were involved in the trade as victims and not as pimps as was first imagined. Their argument being that it is “easy money”. As the trishaw drivers are the first to be approached by the tourists, this is “convenient.” Some of the cases brought to light the fact that the trishaw drivers are paid a substantial amount for collecting and bringing possible customers to the children by the pimps from the final sum collected.

#### ***4.2.2. Relationship (duration, grooming, remuneration)***

The relationship that develops between victims of child sex tourism and offenders is vastly different to the relationship that develops between that of an adult prostitute and an offender. Examples from the research shows that children are more susceptible to the lure that tourists can and will present. Small and seemingly insignificant objects such as coloured pencils and markers bring the children in contact with the tourists. Subsequently there arises the promise of travel to lands (never heard of on most occasions by the children) and of a better way of life.

Coloured pencils soon grow into toys and sweetmeats. The offenders soon establish themselves as “trustworthy.” It is not uncommon especially in Hikkaduwa, Bentota and Beruwela<sup>30</sup> to see young children walking alongside, swimming and playing with tourists.

In the Biography of Thusharitha Silva, which is annexed to this report, this is evident. Thusharitha and her brother visit the tourist hot spots on a regular basis. After school, they venture to the beach as the tourists’ gift them with various “foreign objects” that the youngsters have not ever seen let alone heard of. Thusharitha herself professed that the tourists took their photographs. She however saw little wrong in this.

From the research conducted during the past three months it was made evident that it is this grooming period that lures the children to the foreigners. Community interviews in Hikkaduwa gave light to the fact that the children approach the tourists and live off the tourists during the season.

Once gifts and presents are presented the tourists seem to move on to the next level. Photography begins, and then children are promised copies of all the photographs. From

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<sup>30</sup> All situated on the South and South Western Beach Stretch of the Island

the research it was ascertained that the children are not adverse to this arrangement. Most often associating with the tourists is encouraged and expected even by the parents and community elders. It is seen as a way in which to be hospitable.

This period though somewhat long takes place during the first few days upon arrival. It was discovered that in most occasions the standard trip of an overseas traveller to Sri Lanka is that of three weeks. However it was discovered that it is not an impossible feat to extend the visa.

The first two weeks are spent close to the beaches. This may be either in Negombo or in the South Western stretch (Hikkaduwa, Bentota and Beruwela). It is only after this that the tourists proceed inland, spending a maximum of one night in the other areas of cultural importance.<sup>31</sup> Thereby making it all the more difficult for these same tourists to establish any such rapport with the children of the central part of the island.

Once the tourists have established themselves with the children and thereby gained their trust and confidence the abuse begins. In some occasions it was seen that the offenders were repeat travelers, who visit the identical child each year. In Hikkaduwa and Negombo large houses, guesthouses, shops, vans and motorbikes are gifted to the children Ensuring that they remain under their authority.

When the tourist visits again, s/he is permitted and invited to live with the child's family in homes constructed (most often) by the tourists themselves.<sup>32</sup> The relationship that is so established grows and once the children are more mature they take on the part of "pimp" themselves.

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<sup>31</sup> Such as Kandy, Anuradhapura, Pollonaruwa and Sigiriya

<sup>32</sup> Up until recently Foreigners were not permitted to purchase real estate in Sri Lanka, yet legislation passed last years provides for such. It is therefore that the Galle Fort now houses nearly forty foreign citizens, who use these colonial houses as holiday homes and guesthouses. It is reported that there is pedophilic activities that takes place therein.

## 5. PUSH AND PULL FACTORS

As can be expected the main causal factor for child prostitution and child sex tourism is poverty. Unemployment is rampant in the areas where CST prevails and on most occasions the parents of these children have no means of survival. They work as daily Labourers and their income is unpredictable.<sup>33</sup>

These beachfront areas are those of coconut plantations. Yet, due to rapid commercialization resulting from the tourism industry there remain very few coconut plantations remaining in the said areas. The residents are therefore compelled to find other means of survival. Fishing is not considered lucrative and many of the children and young adults prefer not to follow in their parents' footsteps. This, on most occasions' mean that the new form of employment is connected in some way or the other to Tourism. Thereby increasing the event of child sex tourism.

Poverty in turn leads to illiteracy. Parents are unable to send their children to school, and the high level of competition at national level examinations<sup>34</sup> make reading for a degree an almost impossible feat. The children who are thus compelled to stay at home are expected to bring in some money to help the home front. In most occasions the parents do not question as to how, where and when the money was obtained, as what the children earn is much more than what the parent can earn in a month. This is all the more so in areas such as Hikkaduwa, Bentota and Beruwela.

Social values have also affected the process. In Hikkaduwa and the other areas in which CST is hidden but rampant the society/community turns a blind eye to the proceedings.<sup>35</sup> But in Negombo, the situation at present is vastly different. As a result of the media publicity gained through a few cases during the last few years the community spurred on by their religious leaders and a host of law enforcement officers look down upon CST. Thereby resulting in the deduction in incidence.

Virginity plays a key role in the area of CST. It was found through both existing literature and interviews conducted that one of the main reasons to lure foreign tourists to Asian countries is the submissive nature of the children.<sup>36</sup> Younger children are preferred due to the fact of virginity. Many stakeholders observed that the incidence of prostitution of young boys was higher than that of young girls when connected to the tourism industry as a fear of losing virginity and a fear of conception arises for girls though it is not so for the boys.

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<sup>33</sup> Note: the increase in the unemployed rate as given in the introduction.

<sup>34</sup> There are three national level competitive examinations in Sri Lanka. The Grade Five Scholarship Examination, The General Certificate of Education – Ordinary Level and the General Certificate of Education – Advanced Level. It is this final examination that places students in the national universities.

<sup>35</sup> Information extracted through Interviews and Focus group discussions

<sup>36</sup> "*Sex Slaves – the trafficking of women in Asia*" Louise Brown, 2000

During the grooming process it was observed that many of the children are quietly made dependent on various drugs and alcohol. These are “novel” to the children of these areas and the likelihood of influencing such vulnerable children is much greater.

As observed in the sections before, the effects of tourism (especially in the beachfront areas) are startlingly evident at all time. The research team observed how easily the children from the said areas switched from one language to another to accommodate the needs of the tourists. Commercialization resulting from tourism has resulted in the children imitating and following in what they believe to be the footsteps of the tourists.

This factor is so startlingly obvious that during the interviews conducted one tourist maintained that looking at the community in and around the beachfront areas “it was impossible to think of Sri Lanka in the terms of an underdeveloped country.”

As mentioned before the information extracted through the various methods of research show that the scenario as pertaining to child sex tourism changes according to geographical location. Many similarities can be drawn in the establishments that exist in the South and South Western Beach Stretch of the island whereas the situation is different in the centre of the island.

Though a few instances where priests are involved came to light during the course of research the team found it difficult to ascertain the extent of the influence of priests in the trade. There is no pecuniary advantage for children who are abused by priests. There are no gifts of kind either. As the children are away from home they are more vulnerable than others to this type of abuse. It was felt that as even the situation assessment shows that Sri Lankan children are submissive unlike their compatriots in the western world.

## **6. PROFILES**

### **6.1. Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Tourism**

The children are as mentioned above from poverty stricken families. They are illiterate as a result of the economic and social background of their families and their chosen professions. They succumb easily to the lures that the offenders present.

Though the incidence of rape and sexual abuse has decreased during the past few years the incidence of procurement of children has increased steadily. This may be due to two factors. Firstly that there has been a growth in the number of children being procured for sexual purposes or it may be otherwise inferred that this is due to the fact that reportage has grown better only of late.

On most occasions the children and their families are housed close to the beach. Fishing is their main occupation but proves to be inadequate to support the family. The rich benefits that can be availed through foreigners even though for a short period of time is adequate to support the family through the year.

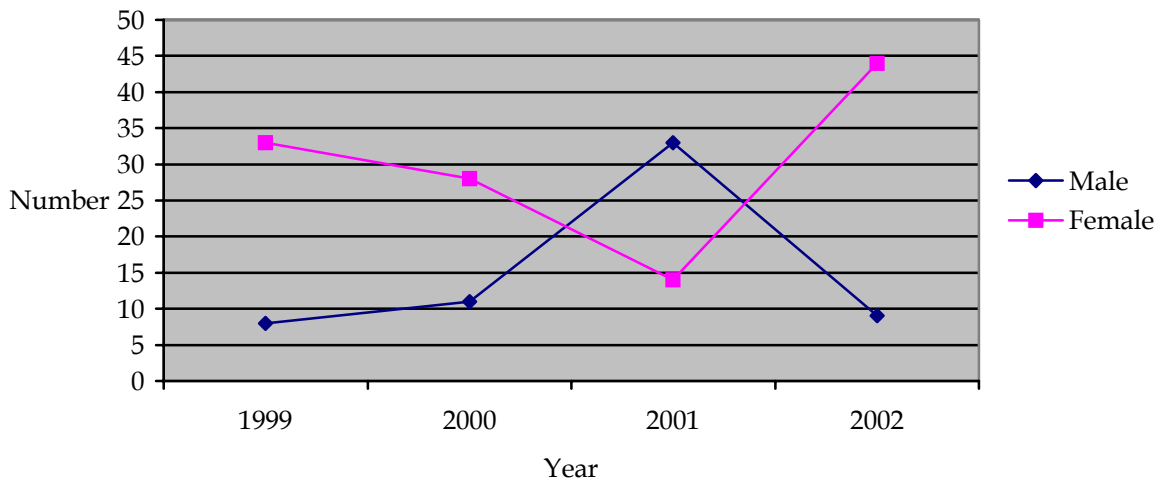
The children are (in Galle for instance) victims of some sort of sexual abuse. There are a number of children who were first subjected to incest and rape before progressing to prostitution.<sup>37</sup> The monetary and other material gains spur on the interest for the trade. As it is mostly organized prostitution that takes place and many adults are involved the children once lured into it find it difficult to move out. They are threatened; their families (if not already involved) are threatened. The victims are mostly male. But it was difficult for the research team to isolate these male victims due to the organized nature of the trade. Yet information available from support organizations gave rise to this assumption.

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<sup>37</sup> See interviews conducted with Victims of CST



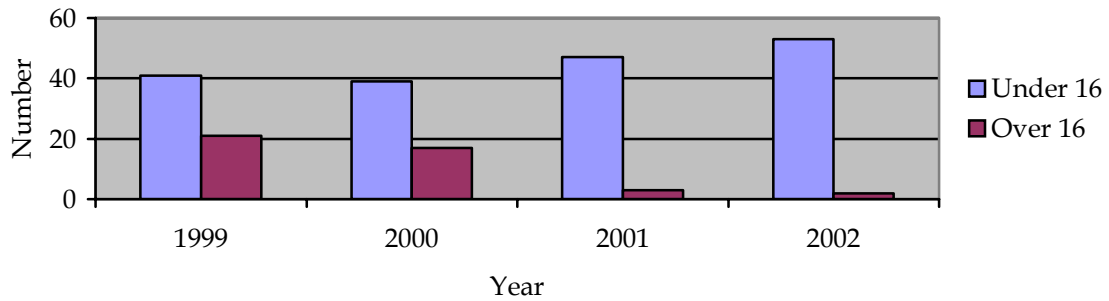
### Offence of Procurement of Children Under 16



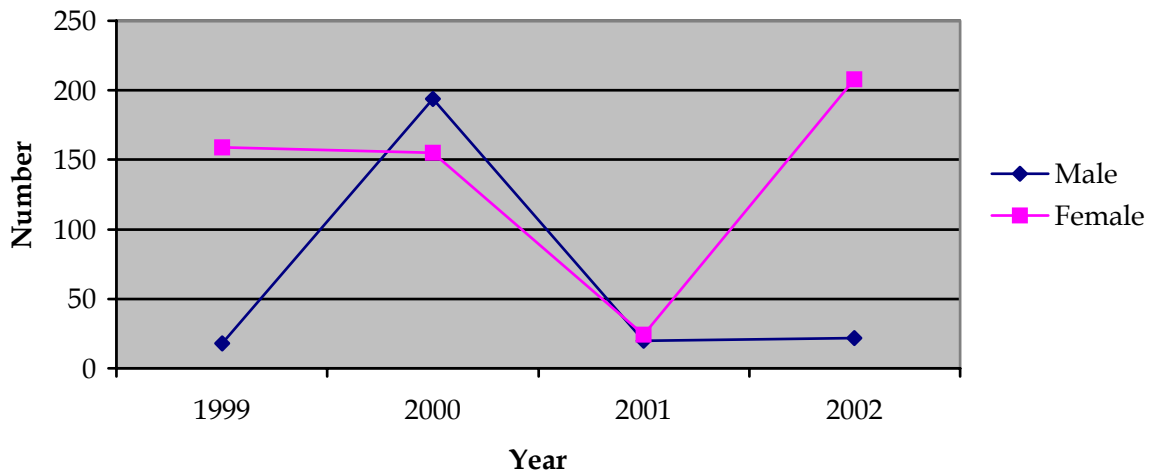
However the above chart gives rise to the conclusion that though this was the case, and the steady growth in the number of boys who were being procured steadily increased during the past few years the situation changed dramatically in 2002. And the number of girls being procured superseded the number of boys. Yet it is submitted that one of the largest problems facing law enforcement officers is that these cases of CST go unreported and forgotten. Therefore the true figures might differ from what is actually reported.

The age of the victims varies. Yet it may be ascertained from the bar chart (given below) in most cases of procurement the children are under the age of 16. In Sri Lanka the age of consent is 16. Also note the situation in the offence of Seduction/Rape.

### Offence of Procurement



## Offence of Rape/Seduction of Children under 16



When considering religious and ethnicity issues it must be mentioned that the majority of the population residing in the areas of research are Sinhalese and either Christians, Catholics or Buddhists. These are the members of the community who are in constant contact with the tourists and it may be therefore ascertained that other ethnic and religious groups not in contact with the tourists are unlikely victims.

The unemployment rate, which has risen from the last year, may also attribute to the increase in procuring. As mentioned before these are children of parents who usually earn for a daily wage and their income is unpredictable. They are forced to therefore look into other possibilities of making an income, and the prostitution of their children through tourists is a convenient alternative method.

### 6.2. Child Sex Exploiters

In the coastal areas of Sri Lanka the majority of offenders were foreign and not local tourists. This is excluding one isolated case mentioned in the chapter on Interviews. They are mature men in most cases who reside in Sri Lanka for a substantially longer period of time.

Law enforcement personnel and certain NGO's pointed out that most often the offenders originated from Eastern and Western Europe.<sup>38</sup> They are regular travelers to Sri Lanka and have established contacts with children and other adults in the trade. It was seen that it is mostly the individual or groups of small travelers who are the most likely exploiters. Tourists who visit the areas on Tour Buses and through reputed local tour operators are

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<sup>38</sup> Help – O Report on the Sexual Behavior of Residents of the Galle District, See also Introduction

unlikely offenders.<sup>39</sup> As they follow a set itinerary they do not on most occasions have the necessary time and resources to establish that rapport with the children.

Local tourists unlike most foreign tourists are interested only in females over the legal age. Their only requirements being that the victims are “not experienced.” Virginity is given importance even in the case of local tourists. In most occasions it was even found that these girls refuse to divulge their age, as local tourists are unlikely to ask for youngsters.

Recent media reports have brought light to the fact that the largest number of tourist arrivals is from India and the UK.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Please note that there are very few local tour operators. The tourists usually travel with the aid of local tour guides.

<sup>40</sup> SAP – International Documentation Section + Tourism Overview of Sri Lanka submitted by ECPAT International.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1 Tourism Authorities**

It is recommended that the following action be taken by tourism authorities to combat CST in Sri Lanka.

Firstly, of a watchdog system on the Internet is needed. It was found that Sri Lanka is advertised on the Internet for CST, encouraging visits from offenders. It is only if these pornographic sites are banned, minimized and kept a tab on by the tourism authorities that CST might reduce in the island.

Tour guides present a main stakeholder group in CST. On most occasions it was observed and is documented that the majority of tour guides operating in the local regions are not sanctioned to do so by the Ceylon Tourist Board and are therefore under no obligation to anyone to prevent CST. It is recommended that tourism authorities take steps to combat these unauthorized tour guides from establishing contact with tourists.

In Negombo for example there exists a tour guides association forced specifically for Trishaw drivers who work on the hotel-infested areas. All those who are registered with the association are provided with a registration number and are awarded a certificate, which proclaims that they may work as tourist guide. These certifications are attached to the trishaw and are visible.

It is felt that if all tour guides, local and otherwise are employed and trained by the Ceylon Tourist Board they will be compelled to follow a code of conduct and thereby refrain from acting as “pimps” as a result of being answerable to their employers.

### **7.2. Tour Operators and/or Hoteliers**

Though many of the hotels, tour operators and guesthouses keep a constant watch over the possibility of child sex tourism, there is no consensus reached amongst them regarding their outlook on the trade. It is felt and is recommended that a code of conduct be established in the hotel industry compelling all those in the hotel and tourism trade to combat CST.

A distribution of literature on the legal consequences of child sex tourism and on general information pertaining to CST is recommended. Most often it was found that ignorance proved to be the key factor in the establishment of the trade. Though the distribution of such literature amongst the hotels might reduce the incidence of CST there is also a chance that it may increase it. One factor that merits mention is that the distribution of such literature might also prove detrimental to the Ceylon tourism industry, which has had a growth only since 2001.

### **7.3 NGOs**

NGO's have an enormous task to combat CST. Ignorance is one of the key contributory factors to the development of CST in the country. The children, their families and their community must be educated on the ill effects of CST. It is only through the sharing of knowledge of past experiences that CST can be prevented.

The law to prevent CST in the country is already almost completely in place. But the social circles of the children have resulted in an inability to enforce these said laws. NGO's can come forward to aid this by education.

It was established that children are forced into the trade due to poverty and the lack of understanding. It is felt that the introduction of an alternative method of employment might minimize the incidence of CST in the country. When introducing these alternatives it must be noted that they should be able to bring about the equivalent if not identical monetary gains without putting the children in a similar situation where they may once again be victimized.

NGO's should attempt to build rapport with the children, their families and their community. By doing so it can be understood that the children who are vulnerable to new ideas are likely to rely on their community and community elders rather than tourists for sanction and knowledge.

The importance in education is that it is only then that the cases will get adequately reported and thereby loopholes in the law considered.

### **7.4. State Protection Services**

Though state protection services do have their plans in place to aid children in the country they need revision.

A few of the cases highlighted in the press during the past few years gives rise to the assumption that the very guardians of the children are proving to be detrimental influences. There were children amongst those who were interviewed by the Research team who continued in their chosen profession even whilst in the care of state child protection authorities.

It is felt and it recommended that a more systematic approach be taken towards the development of the children whilst in the care of State Protection Authorities. By doing so when one can guarantee that when the children go back home they are well protected. Possibilities to not only educate child victims but also the families of child victims the community in which the child will have regenerate himself/herself should be considered and addressed.

## **7.5. Law Enforcement**

As mentioned on a constant basis in this report the law to apprehend and punish offenders and give adequate protection to children is already in place. The difficulty lies completely and totally in enforcement.

It is therefore recommended that the Law enforcement authorities take reasonable steps to address this problem. An awareness campaign that was conducted in Negombo subsequent to the various media reports merits mention. Here it was felt by the community, the hotel and tourism industry that the law enforcement taking such enthusiastic steps to minimize the abuse of children proved to be vital and important grounds for the reduction of CST in the area during the past few years.

An allegation that is directed towards the Law enforcement authorities is that of corruption. Experiences in the various areas of research gave rise to the assumption that Law Enforcement officer's to be heavily involved in the trade. Thereby impeding any possibility of effectively bringing the offenders to justice. It is recommended that Law Enforcement Personnel in areas where CST is rampant is educated on the repercussions of CST and the legal procedures applicable to offenders.

It is felt and is documented that a closer relationship between the law enforcement officials and the community may help to combat CST.

## **APPENDICES**

### ***Annex I***

#### **List of relevant NGOs**

ESCAPE, Dehiwela  
PEACE  
HELP – O, Anuradhapura  
Centre for Human Rights, Colombo  
World Vision, Dehiwela  
Cavals, Kohuwela  
Nisala Diya Sevena  
Don Bosco  
Sylvia Home  
NGO – Consortium, Anuradhapura  
Sri Lanka Center for Development Facilitation  
Sarvodaya  
Family Rehabilitation Centre  
Samadeepa Centre  
Save the Children  
Gandhi Seva

#### **List of Relevant Tourism Bodies**

Ceylon Tourist Board  
Ministry of Tourism

#### **List of Relevant State Services**

National Child Protection Authority  
Department of Probation and Child Care  
Department of Social Services  
Attorney General's Department  
Legal Aid Centre, Trincomalee  
Legal Aid Centre, Anuradhapura  
Probation Officers in Galle, Trincomalee and Anuradhapura  
Human Rights Commission  
Divisional Secretariats Office  
Police Stations – Hikkaduwa, Galle, Negombo, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Mihintale  
Dharmashoka Vidyalaya  
Municipal Council  
Halpathota Children's Home  
Attorney General's Department

## **Other**

LTTE Party Office, Trincomalee

The bibliography was compiled with the assistance of:

The National Library, The National Archives, UNICEF, Department of Probation, ECPAT International and Child Care and the South Asia Partnership International – Documentation section.



## *Annex II*

### **Laws to Prevent Child Abuse/Exploitation in Sri Lanka<sup>41</sup>**

#### **Offence of Cruelty to Children**

##### **Section 308 A (1) of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

Whoever, having custody, charge or care of any person under 18 years of age willfully,

- assaults,
- ill-treats,
- neglects, or
- abandons such person, or causes or procures such person to be
- assaulted
- ill-treated
- neglected, or
- abandoned

in a manner likely to cause him or her suffering, or injury to health, including injury to, or loss of, sight, hearing, limb or organ of the body, or any mental derangement.

#### **Punishment**

##### **Section 308 A (2)**

##### **Of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

Whoever commits the offence of cruelty to children shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not less than 2 years and not exceeding 10 years, and may also be punished with fine, and be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person.

An offender can be prosecuted under this section only if he or she is the guardian, custodian or person who is responsible for the safety of the child. If the offender is any other person, such person may be charged under the Penal Code for causing 'hurt' or 'grievous hurt' to the child.

The following persons can be identified as children's guardians or custodians, or as persons responsible for the safety of children:

- parents
- relatives or family friends who have been given temporary custody of children
- teachers
- persons who function as guardians in children's homes / school hostels
- law enforcement officers
- probation officers
- social service officers

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<sup>41</sup> Department of Probation and Child Care

When a complaint or charge sheet is prepared under this section of the Penal Code, you must acquire a proper understanding of the harm that has been caused by the cruelty concerned and the manner in which the act of cruelty has been committed. With this understanding, you must carefully determine which of the clause/s in section 308 A (1) of the Penal Code is/are applicable to the case you are preparing. If you do not act properly, the complaint or charge sheet will be defective.

**Offence Of Trafficking In Children**

**Section 360 C of the Penal Code 9Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

- (1) Whoever
- (a) engages in the act of buying or selling or bartering of any person for money or for any other consideration;
  - (b) for the purpose of promoting facilitating or inducing the buying or selling or bartering or the placement in adoption, of any person for money or for any other consideration;
    - i. arranges for, or assists, a child to travel to a foreign country without the consent of his parents or lawful guardian, or
    - ii. obtains an affidavit of consent from a pregnant woman for the money or for any other consideration, for the adoption of the unborn child of such woman; or
    - iii. recruits women or couples to bear children; or
    - iv. being a person concerned with the registration of births, knowingly permits the falsification of any birth record or register; or
    - v. engages in procuring children from hospitals, shelters for women, clinics, nurseries, day care centres or other child care institutions or welfare centres, for money or other consideration or procures a child for adoption from any such institution or centre, by intimidation of the mother or any other person; or
    - vi. impersonates the mother or assists in such impersonation.  
Commits the offence of trafficking.

**Section 360 C of the Penal Code  
(Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

Upon conviction an offender shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not less than 2 years and not exceeding 20 years. Additionally, may also be punished with fine. When such offence is committed in respect of a child under 18 years of age, may be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not less than five years and not exceeding twenty years and may also be punished with fine.

**Offence Of Rape**

**Section 363 of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act states the law on rape. Section 364 provides the punishment.**

The information given below is limited to the section in the Act that relates to child abuse. Thus, for example, there is no reference to the rape of a married woman who is legally separated from her husband.

**Section 363 of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995 and No. 29 of 1998.**

A man is said to commit “rape” who has sexual inter-course with a woman under circumstances falling under any of the following descriptions:

- a) With her consent, while she was in lawful or unlawful detention or when her consent has been obtained, by use of force or intimidation, or by threat of detention or by putting her in fear of death or hurt;
- b) With her consent when her consent has been obtained at a time when she was of unsound mind or was in a state of intoxication induced by alcohol or drugs, administered to her by the man or by some other person;
- c) With or without her consent when she is under 16 years of age.

**Explanation:**

- (i) Penetration is sufficient to constitute sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape.
- (ii) Evidence of resistance, such as physical injuries to the body, is not essential to prove that sexual intercourse took place without consent.

In investigating the allegation of rape, you should focus on the following issues:

- the age of the female child (if she is under 16 years of age, whether or not she gave consent for the sexual act is irrelevant; it is not a fact that needs to be proved. If the female child is between the ages of 16 to 18, absence of her consent has to be proved.)
- the circumstances under which the rape was committed.
- Details of the suspect who has committed the rape.

## **Punishment**

### **Section 364 (2) of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

#### **Whoever**

- a) Being a public officer or person in a position of authority, takes advantage of his official position, and commits rape on a woman in his official custody or wrongfully restrains and commits rape on a woman;
- b) Being on the management, or on the staff of a remand home or other place of custody, established by or under law, or of a women's or children's institution, takes advantage of his position and commits rape on any woman inmate of such remand home, place of custody or institution;
- c) Being on the management or staff of a hospital takes advantage of his position and commits rape on a woman in that hospital;
- d) Commits rape on a woman knowing her to be pregnant;
- e) Commits rape of a woman under 18 years of age;
- f) Commits rape on a woman who is mentally or physically disabled;
- g) Commits gang rape,

#### **Shall be punished**

- With rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years and with fine.
- And, shall in addition be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person.

Provided, however, that where the offence is committed in respect of a person under 16 years of age, the court may, where the offender is a person under 18 years of age, and the intercourse has been with the consent of that person, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term less than 10 years.

- (3) Whoever commits rape on a woman under 16 years of age and the woman stands towards the man in any of the degrees of relationships enumerated in section 364 A shall on conviction be punished with rigorous imprisonment, for a term not less than 15 years and not exceeding 20 years and with fine.

- (4) Where any person fails to pay the compensation he is ordered to pay under subsection (1) or subsection (2), he shall, in addition to the imprisonment imposed on him under subsection (1) or subsection (2), be punished with a further term of imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend up to 2 years.

## **Causing Seduction, Prostitution Or Unlawful Carnal Intercourse Of A Female Child**

Section 11 of the Vagrants Ordinance No. 4 of 1841 covers sexual offences against a female child. According to this Act, 'a female child' means a female child under the age of 16 years.

## **Vagrants Ordinance No. 4 of 1841**

- 11 (1) Every person, having the custody, charge, or care of a girl who causes or encourages the seduction or prostitution or unlawful carnal knowledge of the said girl child, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding Rs. 100.00, or to imprisonment of either description for any term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), a person shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to have caused or encouraged the seduction or prostitution or unlawful carnal knowledge (as the case may be) of a girl who has been seduced or become a prostitute or been unlawfully carnally known, if he has knowingly allowed the girl child to associate with, or to enter or continue in the employment of, any prostitute or person of known immoral character.
- (3) No person shall be liable to conviction under this section who as parent or guardian has given his consent to a girl living with any man as his wife.

## **Grave Sexual Abuse**

### **Section 365 B of the Penal Code (Amendment) Acts No. 22 of 1995 and No. 29 of 1998**

Grave sexual abuse is committed by any person who, for sexual gratification, does any act, by the use of his genitals or any other part of the human body or any instrument or any orifice, or part of the body of any other person, being an act which does not amount to rape under section 363, in circumstances falling under any of the following description, that is to say –

- a) Without the consent of the other person;  
“(a.a) with or without the consent of the other person when the other person is under sixteen years of age;” and
- b) with the consent of the other person while such other person was in lawful or unlawful detention or where that consent has been obtained, by use of force, intimidation or threat of detention or by putting such other person in fear of death or hurt;”
- with the consent of the other person where such consent has been obtained at a time the
- c) other person was of unsound mind or was in a state of intoxication induced by alcohol or drugs.

## **Punishment**

### **Section 365 B (2) of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1998**

Whoever,

- a) commits grave sexual abuse shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than 7 years and not exceeding 20 years and with fine, and shall also be

ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person;

- b) Commits grave sexual abuse on any person under 18 years of age shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years and with fine, and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person.

### **Sexual Exploitation of Children**

#### **Section 360 B (1) of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1998**

Whoever,

- a) Knowingly permits any child to remain in any premises, for the purposes of causing such child to be sexually abused or to participate in any form or sexual activity or in any obscene or indecent exhibition or show;
- b) Acts as a procurer of a child for the purposes of sexual intercourse or for any form of sexual abuse;
- c) Induces a person to be a client of a child for sexual intercourse or for any form of sexual abuse, by means of print or other media, oral advertisements or other similar means;
- d) Takes advantage, of his influence over, or his relationship to a child, to procure such child for sexual intercourse or any form of sexual abuse;
- e) Threatens, or uses violence, towards a child to procure such child for sexual intercourse or any form of sexual abuse;
- f) Gives monetary consideration, good or other benefits to a child or his parents with intent to procure such child for sexual intercourse or any form of sexual abuse,

Commits the offence of sexual exploitation of children.

### **Punishment**

#### **Section 360 B of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1998**

Whoever commits the offence of sexual exploitation of children, shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not less than 5 years and not exceeding 20 years, and may also be punished with fine.

- In this section, a 'child' means a person under 18 years of age.

### **Offence of Gross Indecency and Punishment**

#### **Section 365 A of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

Any person who, in public or private, commits or is party to the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any person of, any act of gross indecency with another person, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 2 years or with fine or with both, and where the offence is committed by a person over 18 years of age in respect of any person under 16 years of age shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a

term not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years and with fine and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person.

### **Offence of Unnatural Acts and Punishment**

#### **Section 365 of the Penal Code**

Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years and shall also be liable to fine.

#### **Section 365 of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

Where the offence is committed by a person over 18 years of age in respect of any person under 16 years of age shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years and with a fine and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for injuries caused to such person.

### **Offence of Procuration**

#### **(The Offence of engaging children in prostitution)**

#### **Section 360 A of the Penal Code (Amendment) Acts No: 22 of 1995 and No. 29 of 1998 deems that whoever –**

1. procures, or attempts to procure, any person, whether male or female of whatever age (whether with or without the consent of such person) to become, within or outside Sri Lanka, a prostitute;
2. procures, or attempts to procure, any person, under 16 years of age, to leave Sri Lanka (whether with or without the consent of such a person) with a view to illicit Sexual Intercourse with any person outside Sri Lanka, or removes or attempts to remove, from Sri Lanka any such person (whether with or without the consent of such a person) for the said purpose;
3. procures or attempts to procure , any person of whatever age, to leave Sri Lanka (whether with or without the consent of such a person) with intent that such person may become the inmate of, or frequent, a brothel elsewhere, or removes or attempts to remove, from Sri Lanka (whether with or without the consent of such a person) for the said purpose;
4. brings or attempts to bring, into Sri Lanka any person under 16 years of age with a view to illicit sexual intercourse with any other person, in Sri Lanka or outside Sri Lanka;
5. procures, or attempts to procure, any person of whatever age (whether with or without the consent of such a person) “to leave such persons usual place of abode in Sri Lanka with a view to illicit sexual intercourse within or outside Sri Lanka;”
6. detains any person without the consent of such person “in any premises with a view to illicit sexual intercourse or sexual abuse;”

commits the offence of procuration.

**Punishment:**

**Section 360 A of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

Whoever commits the offence shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term of not less than 2 years and not exceeding 10 years and may also be punished with a fine.

**Offence of Hiring or Employing Children to Act as Procurers for Sexual Intercourse**

**Section 288 A of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 1998**

1. Whoever knowingly, hires, employs, persuades, uses, induces or coerces a child to procure any person for illicit sexual intercourse shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not less than two years and not exceeding five years and may also be liable to a fine.
2. In this section a “child” means a person under 18 years of age.

**Offence related to Obscene Publication and Exhibition relating to Children**

**Section 286 A (1) of the Penal Code (Amendment) Acts No: 22 of 1995 and No: 29 of 1998.**

Any person who:

- a. hires, employs, assists, persuades, uses, induces or coerces, any child to appear or perform, in any obscene or indecent exhibition or show or pose or model for, or to appear in, any obscene or indecent photograph or film or who sells or distributes, or otherwise publishes, or has in his possession, any such photograph or film; or
- b. being the parent, guardian or person having the custody of , a child, causes or allows such child to be employed, or to participate, in any obscene or indecent exhibition or show or to pose or model for, or to appear in, any such photograph or film as is referred to in paragraph a.;
- c.
  - i. takes, assists in taking of any indecent photograph of a child, or
  - ii. distributes or shows any such photograph or any publication containing such photograph,
  - iii. has in his possession for distribution or showing any such photograph or publication;
  - iv. publishes or causes to published, any such photograph or publishes or causes to be published, any advertisement capable of conveying the message that the advertiser or person named in the advertisement distributes or shows any such photograph or publication or intends to do so.commits the offence of obscene publication and exhibition relating to children.

**Punishment**

**Section 286 A of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995**

Any person who commits the offence of obscene publication and exhibition relating to children and shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not less than 2 years and not exceeding 10 years and may also be punished with a fine.



**Offence of Developing an Indecent or Obscene Photograph or a Film of a Child**  
**Section 286 A of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 1998**

(2) Any person who, being a developer of photographs or films, discovers that any photography or film given to him for developing is an indecent or obscene photograph or a film of a child, shall, forthwith on such discovery, inform the officer in charge of the nearest Police Station that he has in his possession such photographs or film.

**Punishment**

(3) Whoever being a developer of photographs or film acts in contravention of the provisions of subsection (2) shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both.



**Annex III**

**Interviews Conducted – CST Research July to September 2003**

A chronological list of the key interviews conducted is submitted herewith

Date	Name	Place	Ethnicity	Age	Sex	
August	1	Community	Mount Lavinia	n/a	n/a/	n/a
	5	N.	Nisala Diya Sevena, Negombo	Sin, Bud	13	F
		S.	Nisala Diya Sevena, Negombo	Tam, Hin	16	F
		R.D.	Nisala Diya Sevena, Negombo	Sin, Bud	15	F
		P.	Nisala Diya Sevena, Negombo	Sin, Bud	14	F
		Sisters – Head	Nisala Diya Sevena, Negombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Father – Head	Don Bosco, Negombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
	6	Community - Fisherman	Negombo Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a
	7	Iresha Kumari	Don Bosco, Negombo	Sin, Bud	12	F
	12	Ms. Gopika Lokuge	Yashodara Children's Home	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Mr. Chatura Weliwetiya	HELP - O, Negombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
	13	Ms. Iranganie Amarasinghe	Probation Officer, Galle	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Mr. Chandrasiri	Halpathotuwa Remand Home	n/a	n/a	n/a
		D.	Halpathotuwa Remand Home	Sin, Bud	n/a	M
		S.H.	Halpathotuwa Remand Home	Sin, Bud	12	M
		P.	Ruhunu Lama Nivasaya	Sin, Bud	17	F
		D.	Ruhunu Lama Nivasaya	Sin, Bud	12	F
		P.	Ruhunu Lama Nivasaya	Sin, Bud	14	F

	A.A.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	16	F
	L.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	15	F
	S.L.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	14	F
	N.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	13	F
	J.G.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	16	F
	P.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	8	F
	M.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	10	F
	H. S.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	11	F
	M. P.	Yashodara Children's Home	Sin, Bud	11	F
14	Trishaw drivers	Galle	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Community Visit	Janadhiwatte, Galle	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Community Visit	Lovigahawatte, Galle	n/a	n/a	n/a
	T.S.	Janadhiwatte, Galle	Sin, Bud	12	F
	G.	Janadhiwatte, Galle	n/a	n/a	n/a
19	K.	Halpathota Detention Home	Sin/Bud	10	F
	P.M.	Halpathota Detention Home	Sin/Bud	15	F
	I.	Halpathota Detention Home	Sin/Bud	12	F
	N.	Halpathota Detention Home	Sin/Bud	15	F
	V.S.	Halpathota Detention Home	Sin/Bud	14	F
20	S.	Halpathota Detention Home	Sin/Bud	15	F
	S.	Halpathota Detention Home	Sin/Bud	16	F
	Vendors - Community	Hikkaduwa Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Chathura and Soysa	Hikkaduwa Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a
21	Officer in Charge	Police Station, Hikkaduwa	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Trishaw drivers	Hikkaduwa	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sep

25	Prison Officer	Galle Fort	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Gramaseveka	Minuwangoda (Off Galle)	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Vendors - Community	Negombo Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Trishaw driver	Negombo Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a
26	Officer in Charge	Negombo, Police Station	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Trishaw driver (Pradeep)	Negombo, Bus Stand	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Vendors - Community	Galle Fort	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Officer in Charge	Galle Fort, Police Station	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Statistical officer	Divisional Secretariat	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Officer in Charge	Crime Division, Galle	n/a	n/a	n/a
27	Beach Boy*	Unawatuna			
	FGD - Trishaw drivers	Galle	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Peppermint Boy				
28	Community	Narigama, Hikkaduwa	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Community	Gonapinuwa, Hikkaduwa	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Indika	Mount Lavinia Beach	Sin, Bud	12	M
	Dr. Palitha Banadara	Medical Officer, Anuradhapura Hospital	n/a	n/a	n/a
2	K. B. Lokubanadara	Anuradhapura Hospital	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Mr. Ruwan	Anuradhapura Hospital	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Vincent Kanagaratne	Sarvodaya, A'pura	n/a	n/a	n/a
	SI Kumarasinghe	Women and Children's Bureau, A'pura	n/a	n/a	n/a
	SI Nannayakkara	Police Station, A'Pura	n/a	n/a	n/a
	SI Gunewardene	Police Station, A'Pura	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Mr. U. A. Sumanasena	Family Rehabilitation Center	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Ms. Chandrani	Family Rehabilitation Center	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Mr. Vilson Gunewardene	Samadeepa Center	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Mr. Chandra Ratnayake	Samadeepa Center	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Mr. R. M. S. Ratnayake	Asst. Secretary Office	n/a	n/a	n/a
3	Mr. Ranjith Ariyaratne	Probation Commissioner	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Dr. Waidyaratne	JMO Office	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Ms. Jenita Perera	Save the Children	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Chaminda	Trishaw driver	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Prasanna	Trishaw driver	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Mr. Ranaweera, Treasurer	Asoka Boys Home	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Head	Avanthi Devi Children's Home	n/a	n/a	n/a
	N.S.	Avanthi Devi Children's Home	Sin, Chr	16	F
	N.	Avanthi Devi Children's Home	Sin, Chr	13	F
	Wijeratne	Trsiahw Driver	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Officer in Charge	Women and Children's Bureau, Dehiwela Police	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Officer in Charge	Women and Children's Bureau, Mt. Lavinia Police	n/a	n/a	n/a
5	Community	Mt. Lavinia Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Officer in Charge	Mihintale Police Station	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Asst. Principal	Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Mihintale	n/a	n/a	n/a
12	SI Dharmasiri	Anuradhapura	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Officer in Charge	Crime Division, Mihintale	n/a	n/a	n/a
13	Ganga Sanjeevani Kannangara	Police Station, A'Pura	Sin, Bud	17	F
14	Tour Guides	Mihintale	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Vendors	Mihintale	n/a	n/a	n/a
15	Gandhi Seva	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	LTTE Office	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a

	LTTE Office (Muttur)	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UNICEF	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	UNHCR	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
16	Save the Children	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	High Court	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Police	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Divisional Secretariat	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	TDDA	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
17	Probation Officer	Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Consultant	Jamaliyah Village Development Asso. Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Consultant	Legal Aid Centre, Trincomalee	n/a	n/a	n/a
18	Grama Seveka	Pararathipuram	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Security Guards	Nilaveli Beach Hotel	n/a	n/a	n/a
19	Lechchimi	Trincomalee	Tam, Hin	16	F
22	Subhashini Dayawansa	Centre for Human Rights Colombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Attorney Generals Dept.	Colombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Ceylon Tourist Board	Colombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
25	World Vision	Colombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cavals	Colombo	n/a	n/a	n/a
26	Hotel Management	Colombo	n/a	n/a	n/a

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