



WHY PRIORITIZE PREVENTION?

WHAT IS EXPLOITATION?

Exploitation occurs when someone takes advantage of another person's vulnerability to achieve personal gain. This includes human trafficking.



EACH YEAR, MILLIONS OF CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS of Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitationⁱ



UNIFIED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HAS AGREED WE MUST ADDRESS CHILD TRAFFICKING WITH A 3-PRONGED APPROACH

Criminalizing & Prosecuting Perpetrators
Providing Assistance to Victims
Developing Effective Prevention Programsⁱⁱ

To Date, **MOST GOVERNMENTS HAVE PAID THE LEAST ATTENTION TO PREVENTION**ⁱⁱⁱ

In Contrast, A **CHILD-CENTERED APPROACH** & **PRIORITIZES PREVENTION**



RECOGNIZES THAT ALL CHILDREN ARE VULNERABLE^{iv}

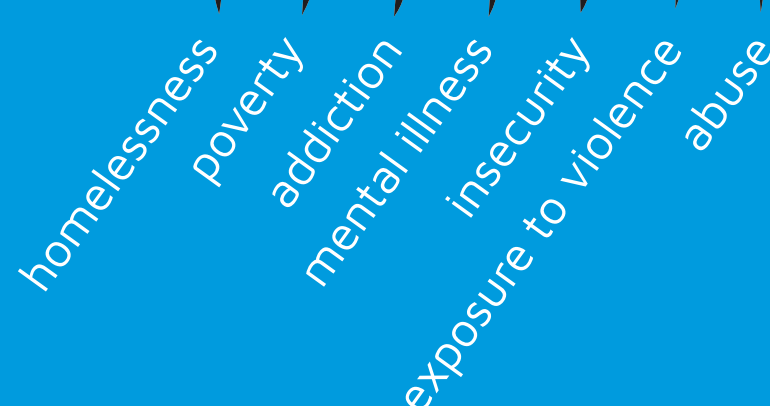
A child-centered approach prioritizes children by:

- 1 Recognizing vulnerability and protecting children before exploitation occurs.
- 2 Addressing the roots of the problems that generate supply and demand.
- 3 Providing services for exploited youth that ensure recovery and do not expose the child to re-traumatization



PUSH FACTORS: THE ROOTS THAT CAN LEAD TO EXPLOITATION

“There is no single reason why children are trafficked, but rather a wide range of factors and layers of vulnerabilities related to children as individuals, their families, and the socio-economic context in which they live. Child victims of trafficking are rarely affected by only one factor; rather it is the compounding of several factors that renders them susceptible to being exploited.”^v



Prevention should address negative pushes by:^{vi}

- 1 Strengthening trusting bonds with children
- 2 Providing them with legitimate opportunities
- 3 Teaching them coping techniques to manage negative emotions

WHERE SHOULD WE PROVIDE PREVENTION?

SOCIAL SPACES



- After-school services
- Mentorship programs

WORK



- Homeless services
- Juvenile corrections
- Foster care

HOME



- Family

SCHOOL



School-based prevention programs are ideal because “the local school is the one institution in contact with virtually every family with children.”^{vii}

WHY DO WE NEED PREVENTION THAT ALLOWS YOUTH TO LEAD?

- 1 Children are experts on their own lives and what makes them vulnerable.^{viii}
- 2 School-based prevention curriculum allows youth to engage in conversation about these topics.^{ix}
- 3 We should be teaching children life skills, such as managing emotions, learning to empathize with others, and being self-aware.^x



OUR TOOLS UTILIZE THE MOST PROMISING PRACTICES FOR EXPLOITATION PREVENTION:



iEMPAThIZE™
THE EMPOWER YOUTH PROGRAM

Provides Innovative Prevention Methods by:

- 1 Developing age-appropriate, easily understood learning materials and offering the curriculum in all schools, not just those in at-risk areas.
- 2 Including subjects of self-awareness and self-esteem that speak to both boys and girls, with specific resources for youth who find themselves vulnerable.
- 3 Supplying educators with the right materials and resources to spur dialogue.^{xi}

WILL YOU PRIORITIZE PREVENTION?

We can help. Learn more at iempathize.org/eyp

Works cited

ⁱ http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_182109/lang-en/index.htm

ⁱⁱ <https://www.osce.org/odihr/19223?download=true> - See article 3

ⁱⁱⁱ “Taking Prevention Seriously: Developing a Comprehensive Response to Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation” by Jonathan Todres - Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law

^{iv} Ibid Todres

^v See E. ASIA & PAC. REG'L OFFICE, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, REVERSING THE TREND: CHILD TRAFFICKING IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA pt. I (B)-(C) (2009), available at http://www.unicef.gr/pdfs/Unicef_Trafficking_Report_Aug09.pdf;

^{vi} Ibid Cullen and Agnew

^{vii} Kruger, A. C., Harper, E., Zabek, F., Collins, S., Perkins, C., & Meyers, J. (2016). Facilitating a school-based prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children. *Health Promotion Practice*, 17(4), 530-536.

^{viii} Ibid Todres

^{ix} Barnitz, L. (2001). Effectively responding to the commercial sexual exploitation of children: A comprehensive approach to prevention, protection, and reintegration services. *Child Welfare*, 80(5), 597-610.

^x Rafferty, Y. (2013). Child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation: A review of promising prevention policies and programs. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 83(4), 559-575.

^{xi} Mansberger, M. (2011). Critical thoughts on human trafficking and how to include the subject in a mainstream education system in India. *Social Change*, 41(4), 611-625.

^{xii} National Academy Press. (2013). *Confronting commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States*. 1-462.