

NO MINOR

THING

**THE WHAT DESIGN CAN DO CHALLENGE
TO COMBAT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

DESIGN


BRIEFS




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HOW CAN PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TEACH EVERY CHILD THAT IT IS IN CHARGE OF ITS OWN BODY?



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BRIEF A

Young people are often vulnerable and uncertain when it comes to relationships and sexuality, especially when they are experiencing them for the first time. That's because of taboos, shame, secretiveness and the complex nature of relationships and sexuality in the lives of many people. But it also has to do with opinions, bullying and coercion. That's why it's so important to communicate with children from an early age about power in relationships and sexuality, and how people deal with them. That conversation should be much broader than the subject of sexual exploitation, so that all children grow up with a clear understanding of what is 'healthy' in relationships and sexuality, and that everybody is in charge of their own body. This knowledge would help young people who enter into relationships, including potential victims, offenders, and those paying for sex, to understand that selling your body is not normal. It seems that the 'usual' ways of communicating at school or at home, through educational programmes or direct questions, often fail to connect with young people and therefore fail to open up a conversation about relationships and sexuality. Sometimes a direct question is not the right approach. The right triggers to start a discussion are lacking, and it is unclear what creates the right context to start a discussion.

How can you make clear that everybody is in charge of their own body, and in what ways can you communicate with children and young people on the subject in a meaningful way?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

- How can we ensure that parents and guardians educate children about relationships and sexuality from the very start?
- How can we make information about healthy sexual behaviour more accessible and appealing?
- How can we make it easier to discuss sexuality?
- How can we help parents to understand the online world of their child?
- How can we help parents and guardians to educate children in developing a healthy relationship with their own bodies?

FOR WHOM?

- Parents and guardians
- Small children 0-5
- Primary school children 6-11
- Young people +12

WHICH PARTIES WOULD YOU INVOLVE?

- Education institutes and organizations
- Primary schools, teacher training colleges, third-level courses in social work
- General practitioners
- Family and youth centres, child healthcare centre
- Social workers and NGOs
- Influencers such as vloggers and musicians
- Media (online) where young people find their identity

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES:

- Dokter Corrie
<https://www.schooltv.nl/video/de-dokter-corrie-show-grenzen-aangeven/>
- Saar en Jop
<http://www.saarenjop.nl/over-saar-en-jop.html>
- Tea Consent
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQbei5JGiT8>
- Consent for Kids
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3nhM9Uljc>
- Loverboys steeds agressiever / Spuiten en Slikken
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfB9eiYqP9s>
- Ik kan niet slapen / DWIGHT FT. ROCKS
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=73&v=qGEgLUsiQu0

RESEARCH RESULTS

Listed below are insights gained from the preliminary study and expert session held by WDCD with STBY and the Dutch Public Prosecution Service. They enable design teams to build up an initial understanding of the context in which they are designing. Also listed are some links to source material that is relevant to this brief.

TO START WITH:

- It is important to talk about sex at home from an early age, but that does not happen in 1 out of every 4 households, according to the National Rapporteur.
- Existing educational programmes are of little help to young people because so few of them are effective. The best guarantee of success is to look at the underlying theory, a good connection between content and specific pupils, and the skill of the teacher involved.
- Talking to young people about sex, and especially about unpleasant experiences (online and offline), is difficult but important in boosting their resilience.

BRIEF A

- Young people lower their moral thresholds online. As a result, the boundary between voluntariness and coercion becomes blurred. The distance between social workers and young people also grows.

FURTHER READING:

- Effectief Preventief: Het voorkomen van seksueel geweld door seksuele en relationele vorming in het onderwijs
Report by the National Rapporteur (2017)
<https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/Publicaties/EffectiefPreventief/effectief-preventief.aspx>
- Preventiemateriaal Mensenhandel /loverboyproblematiek
Folder by Wegwijzer Mensenhandel (2017)
https://www.wegwijzermensenhandel.nl/binaries/Folder%20preventiemateriaal%20mensenhandel_loverboyproblematiek_tcm21-247394.pdf
- Sex education is not relevant to pupils' lives, says report
Article from The Guardian (2015)
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/sep/12/sex-education-is-not-relevant-to-pupils-lives-says-report>
- Weerbaarheidsles kwetsbare leerlingen: 'Niet zomaar op school'
Article from het Parool (2018)
<https://www.parool.nl/amsterdam/weerbaarheidsles-kwetsbare-leerlingen-niet-zomaar-op-schoot-a4562352/>

BRIEF A

“IT’S VERY IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT SEX AT HOME FROM AN EARLY AGE, BUT THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN IN 1 OUT OF EVERY 4 HOUSEHOLDS. YOU HAVE TO START TALKING ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, POWER AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR BODY AT A VERY EARLY AGE.”

From a conversation with Femke Eisma,
expert with the National Rapporteur on Trafficking
in Humans and Sexual Violence against Children

**“IT SEEMED LIKE A PERFORMANCE.
I DIDN’T IDENTIFY MYSELF WITH THAT STUPID GIRL.”**

From an interview with a victim,
documentary Zembla: Verliefd, verkracht, vermist

**“ALTHOUGH I WAS AFRAID OF MY FATHER WHEN I WAS A CHILD,
HE WAS MY BIG HERO: A BIG, STRONG PIMP WITH LOTS OF
MONEY AND ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY WOMEN. FROM A YOUNG
AGE, STILL AT BOARDING SCHOOL, I STARTED TO ARRANGE
FOR YOUNG GIRLS TO MEET MEN FOR MONEY. I PERSUADED
VULNERABLE GIRLS AND PROMISED THEM BEAUTIFUL THINGS.**

**LATER I GOT THEM TO WORK BEHIND WINDOWS, AND IN HOTELS
AND APARTMENTS. TO ME IT WAS ALL BUSINESS. I COULD
SWITCH OFF MY FEELINGS; I’D LEARNED THAT EARLIER FROM
MY FATHER. THE WORK WAS DIRTY, BUT THE MONEY WASN’T.
I WAS A BUSINESSMAN DOING BUSINESS.”**

From the story of Jamie,
human trafficker, 27

BRIEF B

**HOW CAN WE
ENHANCE THE
PROTECTION OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
ONLINE AND
SYSTEMATICALLY
THWART THOSE
SEEKING TO
EXPLOIT THEM?**



BRIEF B

Just like many adults, children spend a lot of time online. They discover and learn in the digital world and connect with other people through social networks. In many cases it enriches life and learning, and it is a relatively new way of becoming an adult. Children learn a lot more at a younger age, and young people can build up strong online networks.

Yet connecting so easily with others comes with dangers. Young people on the internet are often reckless and follow other moral codes than they do in the physical world. Often they are unaware of the dangers they encounter and they sometimes share material and information that makes them vulnerable to sexual exploitation, for example through sexting. If an offender acquires sexually explicit material of a child, through messaging apps for example, he can use that to sexually exploit the person through blackmail. We have to start looking for new ways to thwart this type of blackmail.

The openness of the internet creates these problems. Wrongdoers can reach children and young people unbeknownst to the social environment. Yet the internet also offers possible solutions. The online world can be a place where young people feel safe and can communicate anonymously. This offers victims an opportunity to build up trust with other young people and share experiences. Internet technology also offers companies, NGOs and authorities a way to thwart human traffickers..

The internet should not be a Wild West where anything can happen. We need to find new ways of combatting sexual exploitation on the internet too. How can the individuality, freedom and anonymity enjoyed by young people on the internet offer protection against exploitation, instead of making exploitation so easy? How can we foil the efforts of online exploiters, using the tools and possibilities the Internet has to offer?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How can individuality, freedom and privacy offer protection instead of forming a threat?
- How can we use the internet to combat sexual exploitation?
- How can we prevent somebody from the threat of blackmail if a sexually explicit photo or film circulates?
- How can we combat the recruitment of children (who pretend to be 18) on online marketplaces for paid sex?
- How can clients be assured that they're meeting someone over the age of 18?

FOR WHOM?

- All children
- Underage victims of sexual exploitation
- Human traffickers.
- Clients
- Operators of erotic websites

WHICH PARTIES WOULD YOU INVOLVE?

- Police & justice system
- Web companies & social media companies
- Social workers and NGOs
- Organizations that provide shelter
- Government bodies

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

- [Project Vic](http://projectvic.org/about/)
<http://projectvic.org/about/>
- [ROAR Personal Safety App](http://projectvic.org/about/)
<http://projectvic.org/about/>
- [Sweetie \(Terre Des Hommes\)](https://www.terredeshommes.nl/programmas/sweetie-20-webcamseks-met-kinderen-de-wereld-uit)
<https://www.terredeshommes.nl/programmas/sweetie-20-webcamseks-met-kinderen-de-wereld-uit>

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TO START WITH

- Young people lower their moral thresholds online. This blurs the boundary between voluntariness and coercion. It also increases the distance between social workers and young people.
- Human traffickers are more active and less vulnerable online. Online anonymity makes it easier for human traffickers to recruit young people. Online environments are also ideally suited to the psychology that underpins grooming, such as in chats with a sexual nature. That is why they increasingly use the internet instead of public space.
- Victims are often constantly watched by the human traffickers or a network of pimps, helpers, fellow victims and sometimes people who pay for sex with children.
- Online communication is easier for victims. They often feel safer and more at ease telling their story online, via a chat room or another platform, rather than communicating it physically to a friend or social worker.

BRIEF B

FURTHER READING

- [Tiende Rapportage Mensenhandel](#)
Met name: [Uitdaging 2 - seksuele uitbuiting en technologie \(pagina's 26-27\)](#)
Report by the National Rapporteur (2017)
[https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Nationaal%20Rapporteur%20\(2017\)%20Tiende%20rapportage%20mensenhandel_interactief_tcm23-288257.pdf](https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Nationaal%20Rapporteur%20(2017)%20Tiende%20rapportage%20mensenhandel_interactief_tcm23-288257.pdf)
- [Letter to parliament on progress and results of policy of dealing with lover boys](#)
In particular: Offender profiles (page 2) and youth victims (pages 5-7)
Letter from the Minister for Security and Justice to the Chairman of the House of Representatives (2017)
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2017/05/08/tk-voortgang-en-resultaten-aanpak-loverboys>
- [Paper on prostitution and sex industry in Rotterdam](#)
In particular: responsibility of licensee (page 16)
Policy document by city of Rotterdam (2015)
<https://www.rotterdam.nl/werken-leren/prostitutie/prostitutienota.pdf>
- ['Mannen met wie ik seks moest hebben stonden voor school op me te wachten'](#)
Article from the NOS (2018)
<https://nos.nl/op3/artikel/2222888-mannen-met-wie-ik-seks-moest-hebben-stonden-voor-school-op-me-te-wachten.html>

BRIEF B

'I HAD AGREED TO MEET A BOY WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN,' EXPLAINS CLAUDIA. 'WE HAD SEX. SOMETIME LATER SOMEBODY ELSE SENT ME A VIDEO THAT SHOWED EVERYTHING. THE BOY I HAD SEX WITH, HAD SHARED THE VIDEO ON TWITTER. I NEVER KNEW HE HAD FILMED ME. YOU COULD SEE EVERYTHING. SHIT, I THOUGHT. WHAT SHOULD I DO? MY PARENTS FOUND OUT TOO. SOMEBODY FROM SCHOOL PHONED THEM. THEY WERE VERY DISAPPOINTED.'

From the story of Claudia,
a victim



BRIEF C

HOW CAN WE HELP PROFESSIONALS TO DETECT EVEN THE SUBTLEST SIGNS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TAKE ACTION?



BRIEF C

There are usually various people working at organizations and service providers who come into contact with victims while they are being exploited. They can pick up signs that something is not right with a young person, who is suffering or threatened with sexual exploitation in secret. Almost all of these professionals have to detect sexual exploitation on the basis of subtle signs, suspicions and behaviour and situations that can be difficult to interpret.

They might be teachers, community workers, social workers, care professionals and people within religious organizations, or even drivers, maids, content managers: they can all pick up minor signs, ranging from the contents of a rubbish bin, to the same expensive cars arriving all the time. Those who facilitate exploitation, consciously or otherwise, such as people working for transport companies, hotels and holiday parks, and (online) ad platforms, often prefer to look the other way if they suspect anything, for fear of negatively affecting themselves of their organization or company. This is because they rarely know the consequences of reporting a case, or even what happens when they do make a report. Furthermore, they don't always know that they can report their suspicions anonymously, what they need to do so, and how this will affect the organizations involved.

These groups of people - who are involved in one way or another in cases of sexual exploitation - could play a role in stopping it by voicing their suspicions and acting on them. Because signs are usually subtle and unreported, effective action seldom follows. People usually have no idea where to report their suspicions or with whom they can discuss them. They may also be afraid of the possible consequences of an (in)formal report. This is why they often end up doing nothing.

How can we help people to pick up signs of sexual exploitation, act on their suspicions, and understand the consequences?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How can we get all organizations and social workers involved to collaborate better, for example by sharing information, so that 0+0+0 adds up to 1?
- In which organizations can we create greater alertness?
- How can we mobilize people close to the human trafficker to discuss the subject?
- How can we help companies to spot sexual exploitation?
- How can we improve the connection between aid organizations, the police and the justice system?
- How can we better recognize signs of sexual exploitation?

- How can we mobilize people close to the victim to discuss the subject?
- How can we make it easier to take the step from spotting signs to taking action?
- How can we spot victims at an earlier stage?
- How can we provide more insight into the process of reporting signs and what happens afterwards?
- How can we inform people who report signs about the progress of their case?

FOR WHOM?

- Underage victims of sexual exploitation
- The social environment of human traffickers
- The social environment of people who pay for sex with children
- Business community (cafés, hotels, holiday parks, transport firms, Airbnb, shops, security firms, etc.)

WHICH PARTIES WOULD YOU INVOLVE?

- Police
- Justice system
- Social workers and NGOs (including care facilities for children, GGD, Fier, and COA)
- Municipalities

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

- [Hotels recognize sexual exploitation](https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/editien/laatste-videos-editien/hotels-herken-seksuele-uitbuiting)
<https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/editien/laatste-videos-editien/hotels-herken-seksuele-uitbuiting>
- [Make It Visible – recognizing signs](https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/editien/laatste-videos-editien/hotels-herken-seksuele-uitbuiting)
<https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/editien/laatste-videos-editien/hotels-herken-seksuele-uitbuiting>
- [Prevention checklist for young people](http://www.preventiescharlakenkoord.nl/beware-of-loverboys/help)
<http://www.preventiescharlakenkoord.nl/beware-of-loverboys/help>
- [‘Imagine it was your daughter...’](https://www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl/gedwongenprostitutie)
<https://www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl/gedwongenprostitutie>

RESEARCH RESULTS

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teams to build up an initial understanding of the context in which they are designing. Also listed are some links to source material that is relevant to this brief.

TO START WITH

- Society is not alert to sexual exploitation and should be able to pick up and report on many more signals. But there is too little alertness, which means that subtle signals (such as expensive cars at school, or several people entering the same hotel room on the same night) are often overlooked or not followed up on. For example, many doctors say they lack the knowledge and expertise to spot signs of exploitation.
- Victims are isolated by human traffickers. And because of the broken relations within their environment, it is very difficult to pick up on signals. At the same time, isolation itself can be a sign of human trafficking.
- Victims often keep quiet because of shame and/or fear and so often fail to share their problem with others.
- Victims do not always consider themselves victims, but rather as someone who has made the conscious decision to sell their body for sex. This is especially common among boys. Accordingly, victims do not always realize that they are being exploited, much less the consequences this can have on their lives and their mental and social development.
- There are signs for every situation, and the police knows from experience the signs for many different situations and settings. That means they can specifically spot sexual exploitation. There are, for example, signs that typically appear in asylum-seekers' centres.
- People who suspect exploitation often fail to report it. If signs are recognized, that does not mean they are acted on. When a sign is spotted, reporting it to the police is a difficult step for the social environment, although it is unclear why this is the case.
- Online sex ads reveal signs of exploitation and human trafficking. New technology allows you to search for signals effectively and systematically, and you can then inform people willing to pay for sex of the signals.
- Service providers in places of exploitation rarely spot the crime. Hotels could spot sexual exploitation, but rarely do so. Other parties could also be more alert. Think for example of municipal authorities and holiday parks. Many companies do not want to be associated with sexual exploitation, so they prefer to hush things up when they suspect something, and hotel staff often do not know whom to turn to if they have suspicions.
- Hotels (and schools) resist joining prevention or signalling programmes for fear of earning a bad name. Schools attended by many offenders and victims prefer not to join because publicity of the problem gives the

BRIEF C

school a bad reputation and could reduce the number of applications.

- Signals from various places are often not gathered together because of the failure of the professionals involved to work together. As a result, human trafficking sometimes goes unnoticed.
- Professionals who actively search, are most effective in tracing human trafficking. Other organizations apart from the police, such as social workers could also do likewise but often fail to do so.

FURTHER READING

- [Het belang van zorgcoördinatie: in gesprek met Daniëlle van Went, regio Eindhoven](https://www.comensha.nl/artikel/detail/blog-mensenhandel-in-beeld)
Article from the Mensenhandel In Beeld blog by Comensha
<https://www.comensha.nl/artikel/detail/blog-mensenhandel-in-beeld>
- [Paper on prostitution and sex industry in Rotterdam](https://www.rotterdam.nl/werken-leren/prostitutie/prostitutienota.pdf)
In particular: Integrale samenwerking (page 18)
Policy document by the City of Rotterdam (2015)
<https://www.rotterdam.nl/werken-leren/prostitutie/prostitutienota.pdf>
- [Rapport van de Nationaal Rapporteur \(2017\)](https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Nationaal%20Rapporteur%20(2017)%20Tiende%20rapportage%20mensenhandel_interactief_tcm23-288257.pdf)
[https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Nationaal%20Rapporteur%20\(2017\)%20Tiende%20rapportage%20mensenhandel_interactief_tcm23-288257.pdf](https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Nationaal%20Rapporteur%20(2017)%20Tiende%20rapportage%20mensenhandel_interactief_tcm23-288257.pdf)
- [Letter to parliament on progress and results of policy of dealing with lover boys](https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2017/05/08/tk-voortgang-en-resultaten-aanpak-loverboys)
In particular: Opsporing, aangifte en anoniem melden (pages 3-4)
[Letter from the Minister for Security and Justice to the Chairperson of the Second Chamber \(2017\)](https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2017/05/08/tk-voortgang-en-resultaten-aanpak-loverboys)
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2017/05/08/tk-voortgang-en-resultaten-aanpak-loverboys>
- [De klant erbij](https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/2015-de-klant-erbij-interactieve-versie_tcm23-34703.pdf)
In particular: 4 Aard van de zaken (pages 50-55)
Report by the National Rapporteur (2015)
https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/2015-de-klant-erbij-interactieve-versie_tcm23-34703.pdf
- [Sexual exploitation of young people in the Netherlands](https://www.regioplan.nl/media/pdf/id/1609/file_name/16054-eindrapport-seksuele-uitbuiting-van-jongens-in-nederland.pdf)
In particular: 4, Signalering, zorg en begeleiding (pages 44-53)
Report on regional plan
https://www.regioplan.nl/media/pdf/id/1609/file_name/16054-eindrapport-seksuele-uitbuiting-van-jongens-in-nederland.pdf

BRIEF C

“STAFF AT THE CENTRAL AGENCY FOR THE RECEPTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS (COA) NOTICED A RECURRING PATTERN. A GIRL THAT LIVED IN THE CENTRE PUT ON LOTS OF MAKEUP AND REVEALING CLOTHING AND WAS PICKED UP BY THE SAME CAR AT THE SAME TIME EVERY EVENING. THE STAFF DECIDED TO REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE. BECAUSE THE POLICE WORKS WITH THE COA, SOME STAFF ARE ABLE TO SPOT SIGNS, INTERPRET THEM AND RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.”

From a conversation with Gert Buist,
Police advisor

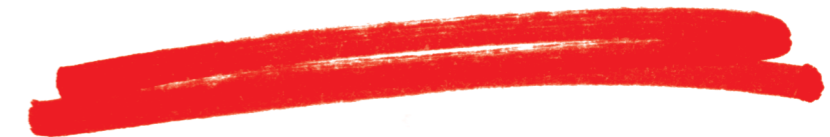


“WE NEED TO DO A LOT OF ACTIVE RESEARCH TO TRACK DOWN VICTIMS. WE NEED TO VISIT PLACES WHERE WE KNOW CHILDREN OFFER SEXUAL SERVICES FOR MONEY, AND TO RESPOND TO SUSPICIOUS ONLINE ADS. THAT BRINGS US INTO CONTACT WITH VICTIMS AND WE CAN START TO OFFER HELP.”

From a conversation with Daniëlle van Went,
care coordinator at Lumens, a healthcare organization in Eindhoven

BRIEF D

HOW CAN WE HELP VICTIMS AND THEIR SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT TO REPORT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION EARLIER?



BRIEF D

Young victims experience huge reluctance in seeking help. Yet that is very important because it can be a turning point for them. If a victim reports a situation, he or she can receive shelter, medical care and psychological help. But according to reliable estimates from the national rapporteur on trafficking in humans, only a very small number of victims report cases, and an even smaller number makes an official statement or files an official complaint with the police. The difference between reporting exploitation, making a statement, and filing a police report (see the general introductory explanation “Worth knowing before you start”) and the consequences thereof, are often unknown to the victims. The same applies for the social environment of victims, for example family, friends, school and sports club. They also report far less frequently than possible, and when they do it, they do it relatively late.

In the case of male victims, shame often prevents them from telling their story to social workers, and certainly to the police. Moreover, people within the social environment of victims sometimes feel ashamed and fear that they or their school or club will be tainted by association with exploitation. The social isolation that human traffickers often deliberately impose on victims makes it even more difficult to report cases of exploitation. In cases of sexual exploitation, there are nonetheless always small openings and brief moments when the victim considers seeking or asking for help.

Gaining the confidence of the victim is, at any rate, essential in opening up the subject, both offline and online. Because digital isolation is often more difficult for human traffickers to impose on victims, the latter do sometimes make contact online. There they feel less shame if they can remain anonymous. This can ease the step towards reporting the matter. Both offline and online, the process of reporting should be made more accessible for victims and their social environment, less confrontational, easier and less frightening.

How can we help underage victims and their social environment (family, friends, school, clubs) to report sexual exploitation sooner?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How can we make reporting sexual exploitation more accessible for victims and their social environment?
- How can we make reporting easier for victims and their social environment?
- How can we make reporting less frightening for victims and their social environment?

- How can we make reporting less confrontational for victims and their social environment?
- How can we offer safe online places where victims find it easy to tell their story?
- How can we make it possible to report in a way that the social environment of victims is less worried about being stigmatised?
- How can we win the trust of victims and their social environment by giving them more control of the reporting process?
- How can we make better use of small openings in the isolation of victims for making reports?
- How can we help victims and others to report cases to the police and justice system, thereby making it easier to start an investigation?

FOR WHOM?

- Underage victims of sexual exploitation
- The social environment of victims (family, friends, school, clubs)
- Care institutions and other organizations where young people live

WHICH PARTIES WOULD YOU INVOLVE?

- Police & justice system
- Social workers
- NGOs (e.g. expertise centre Comensha)

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

- [Sweetie 2.0 - Terres De Hommes](https://www.terredeshommes.nl/programmas/sweetie-20-webcamseks-met-kinderen-de-wereld-uit)
<https://www.terredeshommes.nl/programmas/sweetie-20-webcamseks-met-kinderen-de-wereld-uit>
- [WATCH Nederland](https://watchnederland.nl/)
<https://watchnederland.nl/>
- [Meld Misdaad Anoniem \(M.\)](https://www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl/)
<https://www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl/>

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BRIEF D

FURTHER READING

- [Ze willen snel veel geld](https://www.telegraaf.nl/nieuws/1628641/ze-willen-snel-veel-geld)
Article from De Telegraaf (2018)
<https://www.telegraaf.nl/nieuws/1628641/ze-willen-snel-veel-geld>
- [Letter to parliament on progress and results of policy of dealing with lover boys](#)
In particular: Opsporing, aangifte en anoniem melden (pages 3-4)
Letter from the Minister for Security and Justice to the Chairperson of the Second Chamber (2017)
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2017/05/08/tk-voortgang-en-resultaten-aanpak-loverboys>
- [Slachtoffermonitor mensenhandel 2012-2016](#)
See in particular:
3.5 Melders van de vier groepen slachtoffers (49-54)
5.1.1 Slachtoffers van binnenlandse seksuele uitbuiting (pages 100-101)
Report by the National Rapporteur (2015)
[https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Slachtoffermonitor%20mensenhandel%202012-2016_Nationaal%20Rapporteur%20\(i\)_tcm23-285357.pdf](https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Slachtoffermonitor%20mensenhandel%202012-2016_Nationaal%20Rapporteur%20(i)_tcm23-285357.pdf)
- [‘Mannen met wie ik seks moest hebben stonden voor school op me te wachten’](#)
Article from the NOS (2018)
<https://nos.nl/op3/artikel/2222888-mannen-met-wie-ik-seks-moest-hebben-stonden-voor-school-op-me-te-wachten.html>
- [About lover boys on the Police site](#)
From the police website
<https://www.politie.nl/themas/loverboys.html>

BRIEFING D

“THE POLICE ARE TAKING CONCRETE MEASURES TO LOWER, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE THRESHOLD OF AN INFORMATIVE DISCUSSION, IN WHICH THE VICTIM IS INFORMED OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE POLICE, AND THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.”

From a letter to parliament on progress and results in dealing with so-called ‘lover boys’



“TO STOP A HUMAN TRAFFICKER, WE NEED EVIDENCE, BUT VICTIMS ARE AFRAID TO TALK TO THE POLICE. THEY DON’T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM IF THEY FILE AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT. FOR VICTIMS, TALKING TO THE POLICE CAN BE A BIG HURDLE TO OVERCOME, BECAUSE THEY OFTEN DON’T TRUST THE POLICE. CHILDREN TODAY HAVE A STRONGER DIGITAL IDENTITY THAN A PHYSICAL IDENTITY WHY CAN’T THEY TELL THEIR STORY WITH WHATSAPP?”

From a conversation with Frank Noteboom
Head of the Centre Against Child trafficking and Human Trafficking

BRIEF E

**HOW CAN WE
CONFRONT THOSE
DIRECTLY INVOLVED
IN SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION
OF THE
CONSEQUENCES
FOR THEMSELVES?**



BRIEF E

The law is very clear about what constitutes the sexual exploitation of children, but that does not mean that everybody knows that sexual exploitation is a form of human trafficking and what the consequences are. Besides, it can be difficult to see if somebody is underage or not. That makes it all too easy to walk away from the facts and pretend nothing is wrong, even though it may be happening right in front of you or even if you are involved. Victims are often gripped by shame, fear and a desire to earn money, human traffickers by their greed, and people who pay for sex with children by their lust and even shame. Victims and human traffickers may also simply be trying to survive.

However, the consequences of sexual exploitation for all involved are enormous. The life of the victim is damaged, and he or she requires protracted help to regain control of their life. Victims who initially see prostitution as just a job fail to see the consequences of their decision. People who pay for sex with children, human traffickers and accomplices face severe consequences if they are caught and prosecuted. Ignoring those consequences is often easy now, and accordingly no action is taken.

How can the seriousness and the material and immaterial consequences of sexual exploitation be made clearer for all involved so that they are harder to ignore?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How can we raise awareness of the existence of sexual exploitation among children?
- How can we point out to people who pay for sex with children what the consequences are for them?
- How can we point out to people who pay for sex with children, that the situation involves sexual exploitation?
- How can we make it clear to people who facilitate paid sex with children that they are legally complicit in human trafficking?
- How can we show the scale and complexity of sexual exploitation without the availability of figures?
- How can we make it easier for people who paid for sex with a child (but who were not looking for a child) to report the sexual exploitation of children?

FOR WHOM?

- Human traffickers
- People who pay for sex with children
- Underage victims of sexual exploitation
- Facilitators (people who facilitate paid sex with children)
- Tourists who pay for sex with children
- The sex industry (online and offline)

WHICH PARTIES WOULD YOU INVOLVE?

- Police & justice system
- Social workers and NGOs
- Government agencies and municipalities

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

- [We Are Thorn](https://www.wearethorn.org/our-work-to-stop-child-sexual-exploitation/)
<https://www.wearethorn.org/our-work-to-stop-child-sexual-exploitation/>

RESEARCH RESULTS

Listed below are insights gained from the preliminary study and expert session held by WDCD with STBY and the Dutch Public Prosecution Service. They enable design teams to build up an initial understanding of the context in which they are designing. Also listed are some links to source material that is relevant to this brief.

TO START WITH

- Human traffickers think they are simply making deals often even proclaim that they just wanted to help the victim. Human traffickers do not see themselves as such. They say they entered into a business agreement with the victim.
- Victims do not always see themselves as victims, but as someone who has chosen to sell their body for sex. This is especially the case with boys. Victims therefore often fail to realize that they are being exploited, and what the consequences are for their lives and mental and social development.
- Some young people see prostitution as an easy, legitimate job. Some young people prefer to make money selling their body for sex instead of working in a supermarket. They think they remain in control. However, they forget that prostitution doesn't exist in the Netherlands for people under the age of 18. Instead, it is defined as human trafficking.
- Some people who pay for sex have no objection to a sexual encounter with a child, even though they are aware of their age. However, witness statements make clear that if they had known about the consequences, they would have been afraid.
- People who pay for sex with children deny, manipulate the truth and ignore their conscience, for example by telling themselves that prostitution is legal in the Netherlands. For the sake of convenience, they forget that in the case of children, it involves human trafficking instead of prostitution. But they still feel ashamed.
- People who pay for sex with children can play a role in

BRIEF E

tackling sexual exploitation. Sometimes that happens when they develop a personal bond with an underage girl or boy.

- Many people don't realize that everybody who helps facilitate sex with children is also complicit in human trafficking, even if they don't derive any profit from it. Often, they don't realize that they are punishable and risk sentencing if they fail to act on suspicions and (weak) signals.
- The legality of prostitution in the Netherlands causes children to view prostitution as something normal. That also makes it easier for human traffickers to convince children. That easily creates a grey area between the sexual exploitation of children and legal prostitution among adults.
- Vulnerable groups and others involved rarely discuss exploitation. That is also not easy, because you have to take other aspects into account for various groups. For example, in the case of young people with a mild mental disability, you have to communicate in very direct language about sexual experiences. And for males, admitting sexual exploitation appears to be especially difficult, in part owing to unfamiliarity with the problem in society, a taboo on homosexuality and a taboo on victimhood.
- The legal consequences for people who pay for sex with children are relatively insignificant. It often involves just community service or one day in prison. In many cases the judge takes into consideration that the social and professional life of those accused totally collapsed when it became known that they had sex with a child. Many people might be familiar with the example of the Valkenburg sex crime case, in the context of which a number of people involved in this case by having paid for sex with children committed suicide.

FURTHER READING

- [Letter to parliament on progress and results of policy of dealing with lover boys](#)
In particular: Jongensslachtoffers (pages 5-7)
Letter from the Minister for Security and Justice to the Chairperson of the Second Chamber (2017)
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2017/05/08/tk-voortgang-en-resultaten-aanpak-loverboys>
- [Ze willen snel veel geld](#)
Article in De Telegraaf (2018)
<https://www.telegraaf.nl/nieuws/1628641/ze-willen-snel-veel-geld>
- [In gesprek met de klant](#)
In particular: 4 Houding ten aanzien van misstanden (pages 45-57)
Report by Amsterdam Municipal Health Service (2016)
http://www.ggd.amsterdam.nl/publish/pages/473214/in_gesprek_met_de_klant.pdf
- [De klant erbij](#)
In particular: 5 De strafmotivering (pages 57-69)
Report by the National Rapporteur (2015)
https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/2015-de-klant-erbij-interactieve-versie_tcm23-34703.pdf

BRIEF E

“(...) I REGULARLY PAID PROSTITUTES* TO COME TO MY HOME. IN SELECTING THEM I PAID ATTENTION TO CULTURE, BACKGROUND AND AGE (PREFERABLY YOUNG AND SLENDER). I REALIZED THAT MANY OF THE PROSTITUTES WEREN’T DOING THIS VOLUNTARILY, THAT THEY ENDED UP IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE OF THE WRONG FRIENDS. BUT I DIDN’T THINK ABOUT THAT WHEN RESPONDING TO AN AD. I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT ONE THING: SEX. I DELIBERATELY AVOIDED THINKING ABOUT THE ACTUAL PLIGHT OF THE PROSTITUTE, BECAUSE I KNEW IT WOULD PUT ME OFF. I REALIZED I WOULDN’T BE ABLE TO SAVE EVERYBODY. I BELIEVED I WAS MAKING USE OF A NORMAL COMMERCIAL SERVICE WHEN I PHONED A PROSTITUTE; IT WAS BUSINESS (...)”

From the story by Marco (40),
who pays for sex with children



*The use of the word prostitute suggests that she is 18 or older, but that's not always the case. If she is younger than 18, she is a victim of human trafficking. (See also the document 'Worth knowing before you start')