



STOP

Sensitize and Train Organisations to fight against the Prostitution of minors

AWARENESS RAISING KIT

SOCIAL WORKERS



Co-funded by
the European Union



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1H15 SESSION



10 minutes

Getting to know each other

Presentation of the partner organisation, the project, and the frame of the session

Introduction round

The facilitator asks the participants to introduce themselves with:

- Their name and their role/professional activity
- Their organisation and its main activities



10 minutes

How familiar are the participants with the topic?

The facilitator asks the open questions to the participants to know how familiar they are with the topic of sexual exploitation of minors in prostitution.

The best way is to give the possibility to each volunteer person to express herself.

If needed, it can also be done by asking more precise questions to the participants to see what their representations about the topic are, such as:

- Key words that come to their mind when they hear “sexual exploitation of minors in prostitution”
- Statistics about sexual exploitation of minors in prostitution
- Profile of victims (age...)
- Profile of pimps
- What does the law say about sexual exploitation of minors in prostitution?

An interactive quiz can also be done, be it related to general information or more to national contexts.



15 minutes

Talking about the same things

The aim of this first part is to focus on terminology.

The facilitator asks open questions to the participants such as:

- In your opinion, what are the different forms of sexual exploitation in prostitution?
- Which form of sexual exploitation in prostitution do you think is most common in your country? Why?
- How do you think social media and the internet influence sexual exploitation of minors in prostitution?
- Do you know what the law says about that?
- Do you have an idea of the typical profile of the victims and of the pimps?
- Do you know how young people most often enter in prostitution?

The facilitator then presents the infographic presenting the contents related to the questions that were asked to the participants. It is important at this stage to make the link with the national context.

Follow-up questions (if there is enough time)

- What challenges do you think exist in enforcing these laws?
- What additional legal measures do you think could help combat teenager prostitution?



10 minutes

Warning signals

The facilitator explains that sexual exploitation of minors in prostitution can take place in all contexts and families.

It starts with some open questions to the participants related to the context of social work, such as:

- What behavioral changes might indicate a young person is being exploited?
- How can physical signs help in identifying a victim of prostitution?

The facilitator then presents the most common signals that can be noticed by a social worker:

1. Behavioral changes:

- Sudden changes in behavior, secretive actions, withdrawal from family and friends.
- Increased secrecy about online activities, using multiple social media accounts, communication with unknown individuals.
- Emotional indicators: depression, anxiety, sudden mood swings, fearfulness.
- More absence at school if the young person is supposed to attend school
- More and more difficulty to discuss with the young person

2. Physical signs:

- Unexplained injuries, signs of physical abuse, fatigue.
- Possession of unexplained expensive items, new clothing, gadgets, money.
- Change in the appearance and in the way of dressing: it can be more and more sexualized or in the contrary, showing that the young person is taking less and less care of the way she/he is dressed

What is important to underline is that:

- Noticing these warning signals do not necessarily mean that a young person is victim of sexual exploitation in prostitution
- A person can be a victim of sexual exploitation in prostitution without seeing obvious warning signals. They can be noticeable in other contexts, or the person can be able not to show anything with the social workers.



10 minutes

Attitude to adopt when tackling the subject

The facilitator can ask the participants a general question such as:

“If you have doubts or if you have to deal with a concrete situation of sexual exploitation of a minor in prostitution, what do you have to do?”

The facilitator explains the steps that are recommended to undertake, adapting the contents to the organisations and services of the country.

1. Immediate reporting:

- Report the case to the supervisor or designated officer within the organization.
- Ensure that the case is escalated to higher authorities as per the organization's hierarchy.

2. Documentation:

- Keep detailed records of all observations, interactions, and actions taken.
- Use official forms and reporting tools provided by your organization.

3. Confidentiality:

- Maintain strict confidentiality about the case.
- Share information only with authorized personnel involved in handling the case.



15 minutes

Guidelines for social workers

What to do when it is confirmed that a social worker has to take care of a victim?

Attitude

Some key attitudes the social workers must adopt when tackling the subject with a victim:

- Empathy and support: show understanding and compassion, build trust.
- Non-judgmental: avoid blaming or shaming the victim.
- Confidentiality: ensure the privacy and safety of the individual.
- Active listening: pay attention to verbal and non-verbal cues, validate his/her feelings.

Important method: provide continuous support:

- Regular check-ins: maintain contact with the victim and provide ongoing support. It also helps them to feel safe and supported. With this, you also monitor the well-being of the teenager (physical, emotional...) and it can help to identify any new issues or threats early, allowing for timely intervention.
- Multidisciplinary approach: work with other professionals (psychologists, medical personnel, legal advisors) to ensure comprehensive care.
- Frequency: set up a schedule for regular visits or calls, depending on the teenager's needs and circumstances.
- Environment: ensure that the environment for these check-ins is safe, private, and comfortable for the teenager.

Open Communication:

- Active listening: Listen actively to the teenager's concerns and experiences without interrupting or judging.
- Encouragement: encourage the teenager to express their feelings and thoughts openly.
- Follow-up: Follow up on previous discussions to show that you remember and care about their issues.

Consistency:

- Reliability: be consistent in your check-ins. This reliability helps reinforce the teenager's sense of stability and trust.
- Documentation: keep a record of each check-in, noting any significant observations or changes in the teenager's behavior or situation.

Encouraging open expression in teenager victims of sexual exploitation

- The importance of open expression
- Creating a safe environment
- Techniques for encouraging open expression
- Overcoming barriers to open expression



5 minutes

Q&A – Sharing, resources to consult, getting feedback from the participants

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