October 2016 Vol. 14 No. 10
This issue highlights the growing sexual exploitation of children throughout the world and in the dark corners of the Internet.

Sponsored by the: Sisters of the Divine Savior

The Most Vulnerable: Children

‘Offenders on the Move’

‘Offenders’ was a two-year global study initiated by ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking). Published in May 2016 it reveals that more children are being sexually exploited than ever before and that this is an endemic global phenomenon, despite a 20-year multisector effort to end the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT).

White, western, wealthy, middle-aged men are no longer the typical offender. Offenders can be foreign or local, young or old; some are pedophiles, but most are not. Local, domestic, and intra-regional travelers account for most, with many being ‘situational’ offenders.

‘Shedding Light on Sex Trafficking’

The UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation conducted a study to examine which technologies had the greatest impact on sex trafficking. What follows are excerpts from their May 2016 Report.

It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of domestic-born children are at risk of being sex trafficked within the U.S. each year. There has been particular focus on antecedents to sex trafficking such as poverty, involvement with the child welfare system, histories of child sexual abuse, access to technology, among others. The Luskin Center report uses primary and secondary source data to: 1.) explore the nuances of human trafficking in both a global and national context; 2.) analyze the role of technology.
‘Offenders’ cont. from pg. 1

ers, i.e. engaging in child exploitation because of an opportunity and because they feel they will get away with it.

In its nine regional reports the Report highlighted that Southeast Asia has long been viewed as a primary region for SECTT and remains a destination for offenders today. However, today the majority of offenders in this region are local men. In South Asia, home to half of the world’s poor, SECTT affects boys through street-based exploitation, and girls in brothels and other sex venues. Domestic and regional travelers are the primary offenders. In East Asia SECTT is dominated by local men traveling within the region, with domestic travelers outnumbering foreign ones. In the Pacific Island states children are at a higher risk in the mining, logging and fishing industries. In Australia and New Zealand children from indigenous communities are at a higher risk. In the Middle East and North Africa a key concern is the status of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to child or ‘temporary’ marriage. In Sub-Saharan Africa children are at highest risk in remote areas.

In Latin America the incidence of SECTT is very high, particularly in tourist areas near poor and excluded communities. Tourist arrivals in Latin America have quadrupled since 1980, with 75% of the travelers coming from the U.S. and Canada.

The U.S. and Canada are source countries for offenders, who travel to other regions in order to sexually exploit children. However, child sex trafficking in business travel, major events, conferences, oil fields, transport hubs, etc. have made the U.S. and Canada destination countries. Europe is also viewed as a source for offenders with SECTT increasing, primarily in Central and Eastern Europe. The Study reveals that:

• There is no typical offender, they are tourists, business travelers, migrant & transient workers, expats or civil society volunteers;
• Travelling child sex offenders are usually from the region or country where the offense takes place;
• The Internet and mobile technology have fueled the increase in SECTT by creating new pathways for exploitation and reinforcing anonymity of offenders;
• Most child sex offenders did not plan the crime, they commit because there is an opportunity and they feel they can get away with it;
• No child is immune and victims are not only poor. Some are more vulnerable than others, such as the marginalized including minorities, street children, and LGBT;
• Services for victims remain inadequate;
• Enforcement and prosecution of offenders is hindered by a lack of coordination and information sharing between authorities; and
• There are alarmingly low conviction rates for the sexual exploitation of children, which means the majority of offenders evade justice.

For the full Report, go to: http://www.globalstudysectt.org/the-sexual-exploitation-of-children-by-tourists-and-travellers/
Internet cont. from pg. 2

Webmoney, Perfect Money), decentralized (e.g. Bitcoin), or hybrid systems, coupled with anonymizing tools has given birth to unique complexities. Visa and MasterCard disallowed use of their credit cards on Backpage.com, citing ‘illegal or brand-damaging activities’ as their reason. In response, Backpage.com lowered the price for posting adult ads and now accepts the electronic currencies: Bitcoin, Litecoin, and Dogecoin. Bitcoin is an unregulated, decentralized electronic currency that has legitimate purposes but may attract illicit actors due to the perceived anonymity. All Bitcoin transactions are publicly posted on an online ledger; the user information is a series of numbers and letters that do not offer immediate identification. Although it is possible to link Bitcoin transactions to unlawful activity, the forensics would require specialized training for law enforcement or the use of a vetted third-party.

Experts recommend cross-sector and multi-disciplinary collaboration between law enforcement, the private sector, and academia to initially understand the intersection of emerging technology and criminal activity, so as to subsequently develop specialized tools to combat such criminal activity.

While websites known for their role in sex trafficking continue to be shut down, there seems to be a never-ending emergence of websites and apps that support the sexual exploitation of children. In September 2010, Craigslist shut down its ‘Adults Services’ section after receiving criticism for its role in facilitating sex trafficking. This is not to say that other sections of Craigslist have not been used for commercial sex purposes. Much of the Craigslist traffic has since migrated to other websites that allow for classified advertisements. In 2011, Anonymous, a hacktivist group, i.e., ideologically motivated cyber hackers, infiltrated and shut down the deep web’s child pornography website, Lolita City. In 2014, sources indicated that Lolita City was again fully operating with 15,000 members circulating 1.3 million child pornography images. In 2013, the FBI arrested founder of Silk Road, a site known as ‘the online marketplace for all things illicit.’ However, shortly after the arrest a host of other websites had replaced the illicit marketplace.

In a national study of over 1,200 federal, state, and local active law enforcement agents one-third indicated they lacked the resources to harness data from social media platforms. There is a clear need for cross-sector collaboration to educate law enforcement on existing technologies and demonstrate how to efficiently utilize existing tools and social media platforms for criminal investigations.

In 2013, LexisNexis launched Social Media Monitor, a data mining tool developed to assist law enforcement with detecting criminal activity on social media platforms.

In the spring of 2014, Thorn introduced Spotlight, a tool specifically designed to aggregate data from online commercial sex ads for use in law enforcement investigations. As of October 2015, Spotlight has been utilized in 49 states by nearly 1,400 law enforcement personnel. Agencies utilizing this tool have seen a 43% reduction in law enforcement’s investigation time and have identified over 300 victims and 56 traffickers. Thorn also provides a guide for technology-based companies to use sound practices that prevent their websites from being utilized by traffickers for exploitative purposes. Many technology-based companies have underpinned their corporate social responsibility by taking on anti-human trafficking initiatives. In 2015, the world’s leading search engine, social media, and software firms including Google, Yahoo, Microsoft, Twitter, Facebook, and Tencent publicly vowed to continue taking action against Internet-based child sexual exploitation by developing innovative technology. These agencies have taken steps to better understand, equip the public and private sectors, and work against human trafficking.

Since 2010, Google has provided more than $21 million to non-governmental organizations with a focus on developing new technologies, research, and services that work in the anti-trafficking and child abuse fields.

Microsoft launched PhotoDNA in 2009, a tool that assists in the identification of online images of child sexual exploitation. This technology, donated to NCMEC, mitigates the mental and emotional impact of child pornography on NCMEC employees by minimizing the resources and human capital needed to find such images. In 2012, Microsoft awarded $185,000 to six research teams investigating the role that technology can play in the identification of and support for CSEC.

Collaboration between tech-based companies and anti-trafficking stakeholders has proven to be effective in the development of tech-based tools not otherwise available. For example, Palantir partnered with NCMEC to generate software that could aggregate and analyze data about missing and exploited children and sex offenders. Palantir and Polaris built software to manage NHTRC data. In 2013, Polaris and Thorn partnered with Twilio and Salesforce Foundation to develop the NHTRC’s short-code “BeFree” for discreet and time-efficient access to the hotline.

Since 1998, NCMEC has operated...
Internet cont. from pg. 3

CyberTipline, a mechanism for community members to report suspected child sexual exploitation by providing images or videos and information. Congress authorized NCMEC to document reports from electronic service providers (ESPs); subsequently, all information is cross reported to local law enforcement to assist in investigation and prosecution of child sexual exploitation crimes.

The ‘telephone denial of service’ (TDoS) method identifies telephone numbers associated with online ads, then floods their phone number with continuous calls and/or text messages, which make the number unreachable for purchasers of sex. The FANTOM software, developed by the FBI’s Special Technologies and Applications Office, analyzes the input of digital information (e.g. phone calls and text messages) to visually represent patterns in tracking and significant relationships between suspected human trafficking organizations.

In 2014, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) announced the launch of the Memex program, initiated to combat human trafficking through an advanced search engine. Memex was created to: 1.) develop search technologies to revolutionize the discovery, organization and presentation of domain-specific content; 2.) create new domain-specific search paradigms to discover relevant content and organize it in ways that are more immediately useful to specific tasks; 3.) extend current search capabilities to the deep web and nontraditional content; and 4.) improve interfaces for military, government and commercial enterprises to find and organize publically available information on the Internet.

Anti-human trafficking public service announcements (PSAs) have been developed by a variety of stakeholders (i.e. governmental and nongovernmental agencies) and can be easily accessed online. Consciousness-raising PSAs can be widely circulated among a variety of audiences via social media platforms. Search engine deterrent PSAs target purchasers of sex and provide psychoeducation on the consequences of buying sex from exploited women and children and links to organizations that offer services for those with sexual compulsions.

Emerging technologies should focus on disturbing sophisticated criminal networks rather than solely targeting easily visible offenders. The Wynyard Group’s Advanced Crime Analytics (ACA) software was specifically built to ease the technological burden of large data sets for law enforcement and government agencies collecting intelligence and investigating crime. ACA fuses all investigatory evidence uploaded by agents and integrates it with other sources. It then utilizes smart analytics to pinpoint anomalies, patterns, trends, and relationships that might otherwise go unidentified. It relies on investigatory professionals to interpret the data, make informed decisions, act in a timely manner, and disturb criminal activity.

When utilizing technology-based tools, experts must interpret large data sets in order to provide a more targeted understanding of what the data represents. Since pattern identification within large data sets is guided by the assumption and logic of those who created them, it is important to be aware of the false positives and potential risks of privacy infringements that can accompany this effort. (pgs. 32-36) (http://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/Luskin%20HT%20Report.pdf)

For resources used in the study: http://humantraffickingdatabase.com/#/discover

Internet Porn

A conversation between Robert J. Benz, founder and executive vice president of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and Cordelia Anderson, founder of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (http://www.corde liaanderson.com/NationalCoalition).

Benz: Internet pornography is woven tightly into the issue of human trafficking and can itself be a form of sex trafficking. I’m most concerned about children’s access to pornography and how it may affect them. Is there a difference between perception and reality when it comes to the subject of Internet pornography?

Anderson: The pre-existing frame in many people’s minds related to pornography is ‘pre-Internet.’ They see pornography as something that has always been around and is no big deal. There is, however, a substantial difference between the men’s magazines of the past - Playboy, Penthouse and, even, Hustler - versus the dominantly violent content of Internet pornography with multiple sensory inputs and endless novelty. The ease of access, affordability, presumption of anonymity and the sense of ‘expectability’ are all very different.

Benz: What is ‘expectability’?

Anderson: With Internet pornography being so accessible, it’s the expectation that boys and men will be consumers - with girls and women as the objects to be consumed and to service men - otherwise their masculinity is challenged.

Benz: When I was growing up, sneaking a peek at men’s magazines was a right of passage and, perhaps, provided young people with some practical knowledge in what was often a vacuum of sexual consciousness. Have things changed?

Anderson: The reality that kids are curious about sex and sexuality and, in fact, need to learn about sex hasn’t...
changed. And, while there are many excellent sources of research-based information, children still don’t receive quality sex education - so that hasn’t changed. What has changed is the hyper-sexualization of the mainstream media and the dominance and normalization of the porn industry. Yesterday’s porn is today’s mainstream media and today’s porn has far more to do with sexually exploitive materials than sexually explicit materials.

**Benz:** Is there widespread confusion about the term ‘pornography’?

**Anderson:** Language is always evolving and it certainly affects the way we understand a problem. The pornography industry, and those who defend and profit from it, have been very successful at equating pornography with sex. Words are important. Outside the U.S., for instance, ‘child pornography’ is referred to as ‘child sexual abuse images.’ Rather than allowing the industry to call today’s Internet pornography ‘sexual images,’ what if they were referred to more accurately as ‘sexually exploitive’ or ‘sexually violent’ images? In this way, images depicting respectful sex and sexuality could be distinguished from what the porn industry markets. Under the banner of ‘sexually explicit materials intended for sexual arousal’ the porn industry increasingly markets degrading and vile content. As the lines continue to be blurred between mainstream media and pornography, there is bound to be confusion. What’s needed is to take sexuality back from the pornography industry and work to promote sexual health while preventing sexual harm, exploitation and violence.

**Benz:** What are the most serious concerns regarding the proliferation of pornography on the Internet?

**Anderson:** The neuroscience is clearly showing an impact of Internet pornography on brain development and functioning. This should be especially concerning when young people are being exposed more frequently than ever before. This is why leaders call this the greatest unregulated social experiment ever done on children. We don’t know the full impact yet. While some data indicate lower teen pregnancy rates and a reduction in some forms of violence amongst young people, numerous other studies show an impact on problematic sexual behaviors, intimacy, erectile dysfunction, relationship problems, anxieties and depression - to name a few of the harmful effects.

**Benz:** Any tips for parents who want to provide guidance to their children on this subject or want to know more themselves?

**Anderson:** Instead of allowing the pornography industry to be the primary sex educator of children and youth, talk to your children and help prepare them for growing up. There is great hope that we can help them clarify their values and see how these values inform their behavior. We need to talk about sex and sexuality and pornography. Help children to understand how pornography impacts their brains, feelings and health; it is not harmless and it is not an accurate depiction of sex or relationships. They should learn that, whatever they do a lot, like practicing a musical instrument or a sport, they’re molded by that thing and it becomes a part of them. If they spend all their time on a screen, looking at these kinds of images, it will shape their ideas of gender, sex and arousal in ways that can be very harmful. There are studies showing that pornography can be addicting. We want children to have accurate information so they can make the best choices for themselves. We want them to be driven by a strong sense of self, knowledge of their own values, love, a broad understanding of intimacy, to have caring connections and make the best choices about relationships. Pornography robs them of this and of their imaginations. The pornography industry and its defenders, claim it is harmless. Research says otherwise. We must tell young people not to believe the hype. (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-j-benz/the-evolving-perception-o_4_b_9627416.html)

To understand the social impact of pornography on family and children view a presentation by C. Anderson. “A Public Health Approach to the Pornography Crisis.” Go to: https://vimeo.com/110302977

For Resources, go to: http://www.cordeliaanderson.com/Resources/Documents/Porn%20Resource%20List%202015.pdf
Thorn: Digital Defender of Children

Thorn (https://www.wearethorn.org/) utilizes technological innovation to fight the sexual exploitation of children. The Internet and advances in technology over the past few decades have introduced a new threat and dimension to crimes against children. The Internet makes content and abuse easier to identify and participate in; like-minded individuals can create communities to justify their actions; digital imagery and videos allow abuse to be shared globally at the push of a button; and private and encrypted networks protect individuals that participate in the most egregious types of abuse.

Child sexual abuse imagery refers to content that depicts sexually explicit activities involving a child. Child sexual abuse images and videos are most often documented with the purpose of being shared widely for others to watch, and in so doing, victimizes the child many times over.

Sextortion is a form of sexual exploitation where one individual threatens to reveal sexually explicit images of another person unless that person meets specific demands.

Live-streaming child abuse refers to instances where individuals pay to watch the live abuse of a child via a video streaming service. This type of abuse is incredibly difficult to detect, due to its real-time nature and the lack of digital evidence left behind after the crime.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the commercial sexual exploitation and child abuse of children within U.S. borders. How does technology factor into domestic minor sex trafficking?

The Internet houses the largest marketplace for buying and selling children in the U.S. Online classified sites and escort pages have become a virtual marketplace where these children are bought and sold. There are over 100,000 escort ads posted daily in the U.S. and, within these, there are ads that represent children.

Challenges lie at the intersection of intelligence, cybersecurity, and social media. Thorn partners with the tech industry, government and NGOs to leverage technology to combat predatory behavior, rescue victims, and protect vulnerable children.

The Thorn Technology Task Force is comprised of more than 20 technology companies that lend their knowledge, time and resources to the effort to protect children. Companies include: Microsoft, Twitter, Adobe, Tumblr, Google, Snapchat, Yahoo, Kik, Pinterest, and others.

Current Challenges:

- How to improve industry collaboration to identify bad actors that abuse multiple platforms.
- How to combat those who hide behind Tor and other encrypted networks to actively abuse children.
- How facial recognition and object identification can work on very large scales for victim identification.
- How linguistic analysis and community detection can help find trafficking and abuse victims and stop predators faster.
- How to triage the massive volume of intelligence data being collected daily for case discovery and prioritization.

Reports from Thorn on sextortion and methods used to rescue children.

Go to:  https://www.wearethorn.org/thorn-innovation-lab/
‘Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation & Sexual Abuse’

Words matter because they affect how we conceptualize problems, prioritize issues, and forge responses. Inconsistent use of language and terms can lead to inconsistent laws and policy responses on the same issue. Despite the existence of legal definitions for a number of sexual crimes against children, there is still considerable confusion surrounding the use of different terminology related to the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. This has created significant challenges for policy and program development, formulation of legislation, and data collection -- leading to flawed responses and limited and ineffective methods of measuring impact or setting targets. In the context of international/cross-border child sexual exploitation and abuse, these difficulties are magnified.

The Terminology Guidelines list represents the outcome of an interagency initiative and study spearheaded by ECPAT. The Guidelines contain a set of terms that professionals and international agencies commonly apply in their work on the prevention and elimination of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. They are meant to be ‘universal’ and applicable to work against these phenomena in all settings, including humanitarian settings. The meaning of each term is explained from a linguistic point of view, and its use is analyzed in the Guidelines. For each term that has been defined in international and/or regional legal instruments, such definitions are included.

For the full Report, go to: http://www.interpol.int/Media/Files/News-Media-releases/2016/Terminology-Guidelines

| Examples of terms having a generally agreed meaning and/or use without stigmatizing and/or otherwise harming a child. |
| • Sexual violence against children |
| • Online child sexual exploitation |
| • Exploitation of children in/for prostitution |
| • Grooming (online/offline) for sexual purposes |
| • Online (sexual) enticement of children |
| • Sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel & tourism |
| • Perpetrators of sexual crimes against children |
| • Sex offender |
| • Child sex offender |
| • Juvenile sex offender |

| Examples of terms where special attention should be paid as to their use. |
| • Online child sexual abuse |
| • Commercial sexual exploitation of children |
| • Preferential offender |
| • Situational offender |
| • Transnational child sex offenders |
| • Traveling child sex offenders |

| Examples of terms to be avoided. |
| • Child prostitute |
| • Child sex worker |
| • Child sex tourism |
| • Child sex tourist |
| • Customer/client/John |

‘Stay Safe Online’

The 2014 28-page Guide ‘Stay Safe from Online Sexual Exploitation’ Guide was prepared by Ecpat in order to tell children and young people about sexual dangers they may encounter online. Several excerpts follow.

What Is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child care professionals often use the term “child sexual abuse”. Child sexual abuse happens when an adult or a young person involves another child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully understand, or is unable to give informed consent to, or for which he or she is not ready for (perhaps because of his or her age or level of development). Child sexual abuse is intended to satisfy the needs of the abuser, not the child that is being abused.

Child sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to, rape, touching genitals or sexual intercourse with a child. It also consists of non-physical contact such as involving children in watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually explicit ways and exposing them to inappropriate sexual materials.

What about youth who are the age of sexual consent in their country and engage in sexual relations with adults? Don’t they have the right to choose?

In some countries youth can agree to have sex when they are younger than 18 years old if they have reached the legal age of sexual consent. Some young people are therefore engaged in sexual relationships with adults.
Stay Safe cont. from pg. 7

However, if the adult records sexual videos or pictures of the young person and sells it to others, then the youth is being exploited by the adult even if the young person has agreed.

To protect all children, it is important that no children are exploited. Even if some children and young people say they agreed to have sexual relations or be abused, their consent is irrelevant and the abuse is considered a crime.

Why do we prefer to say ‘child sexual abuse materials’ rather than ‘child pornography’?

Child sexual abuse materials can be text, pictures, sounds or videos of a child engaged in sexual activities, images of sexual parts of a child or images of a fake child that looks like a real one (e.g. images generated by computer program).

We use the term ‘materials’ because this is broader than just pornography and includes text, audio, video, pictures and even cartoon-like images of children. We also use ‘child sexual abuse materials’ because the term ‘pornography’ may give the impression that children agree to participate in the serious abuses shown.

Internet Safety: Educational Materials

NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) that provides age-appropriate resources to help teach children how to be safer on- and offline. The program is designed for children ages 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement. With resources such as videos, games, activity cards, and presentations, NetSmartz entertains while it educates. Materials are age-specific.

NetSmartz goals include:
- Educate children on how to recognize potential Internet risks.
- Engage children and adults in a two-way conversation about on- and offline risks.
- Empower children to help prevent themselves from being exploited and to report victimization to a trusted adult.

Parents can sign up for monthly email updates. Teaching Digital Citizenship is a self-paced online training program for educators sponsored by Club Penguin. In this training, educators learn about the risks children face online, key lessons to teach, and which NetSmartz resources to use for each age group.

The NetSmartz Student Project Kit helps students in grades 6-12 teach their peers and younger students about topics like cyberbullying, online privacy, and digital ethics.