

**Promoting access to basic rights for all children.**

**MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION IN FRANCE**

**OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**30 November 2022**

*Having already contributed during the previous phases of the monitoring of the implementation in France of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child[[1]](#footnote-1), the Collective “Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains” [United for the prevention of human trafficking], in addition to other official and unofficial reports, has chosen to emphasise issues given relatively little coverage in the French report or which are current topics with regard to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the protocols related thereto.*

**OVERVIEW OF THE “*ENSEMBLE CONTRE LA TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS*” COLLECTIVE**

This network was created in order to render more effective the combat against all forms of this denial of human rights. Created by the charity *Secours Catholique* in 2007, it brings together 28 French associations and federations of associations, all committed either directly or indirectly to supporting victims in France or in countries in which trafficking occurs or originates. Determined to combat the commoditisation of the individual, the collective has two objectives: raising awareness among the general public in relation to this complex issue and encouraging French, European and international political decision-makers to make a strong commitment to preventing this form of criminal activity. It covers the different types of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, domestic slavery, forced labour, forcing victims to beg, commit crimes and offences, slavery within marriage, organ harvesting, etc.

**Areas of action**:

Stopping communities from becoming vulnerable to trafficking, raising awareness among the general public, training volunteers and professionals, providing support to victims (social, legal, relating to accommodation, healthcare, employment, friendship, etc.), establishing networks on a national and international level, advocacy in France, in Europe and worldwide to promote change to international instruments and national laws in favour of victims, as well as their application. Several organisations which are members of this collective of French associations also have the international reach required to combat this scourge. In recent years, the Collective and its associations have played a major role in ensuring that human trafficking is included in various action plans adopted by the French government (child prostitution, vulnerability of migrants, steps taken in view of a nationwide plan to prevent child prostitution and in the context of the “Alliance 8.7” organisation, the preparation of the strategy to combat child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery.

**Members of the Collective:**

*Action Catholique des Femmes, AFJ, Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants, Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l’Homme, Amicale du Nid, Armée du Salut, Association pour la Réadaptation Sociale, Aux captifs la libération, Comité Contre l’Esclavage Moderne, Comité Protestant évangélique pour la Dignité Humaine, Congrégation Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur, Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l’Enfant, ECPAT France, Fédération des Acteurs de la solidarité (FAS), Fédération de l’Entraide Protestante, Espoir CFDJ-Service Jeunes errants, Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles, Hors la rue, Justice et Paix France, Koutcha, La Cimade, La Voix de l’enfant, Les Champs de Booz, Mouvement du Nid, Organisation Internationale Contre l’Esclavage Moderne, Planète Enfants et Développement, SOS Esclaves* and *Secours Catholique Caritas France* which acts as coordinator for the Collective.

 **IN A FEW WORDS**

**Child victims or potential victims of human trafficking, or the children (even babies) of victims of trafficking, are exploited or in danger of exploitation.** These minors have the right to full and entire recognition and to the exercise of all of the rights of the child enshrined in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child which came into force in France on 6 September 1990. They must have access to all basic rights. Restoring their fundamental rights to them is also the best way of thwarting the criminal networks or individuals who exploit them, by drying up the source of the profit which children represent for them; this also makes it possible to reduce the vulnerability of these young people in the face of the risk of human trafficking or of becoming victims once again. Finally, this helps them rebuild their lives and obtain compensation for the serious harm they have experienced. The combat against child trafficking must involve protection and support for children and compensation, all without discrimination of any kind whatsoever. In 2022, France became a “pathfinder” country in the context of Alliance 8.7, an inclusive global partnership committed to achieving target 8.7 of the 2030 sustainable development goals established by the United Nations Member States. However, the effective implementation of the measures defined in the context of the National Acceleration Strategy for the elimination of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery has been slow to take form in certain areas.

Issues linked to **child exploitation and trafficking** were not given much room in the previous reports drawn up by France. The subject is however pressing as this involves **new forms of trafficking which are developing through the internet** and social media, a type of trafficking that is currently more hidden following the Covid lockdown measures; awareness of the risk of child trafficking generated by the **consequences of the war in Ukraine** and current changes in the various forms of trafficking or exploitation methods: the use of **drugs** to gain greater control over (sometimes very young) children and the **growth in trafficking for the purpose of crime**, the development of **platforms and “uberisation”** which facilitates the use of minors **exploited at work** in the hospitality sector, in deliveries, housework and personal services; the exploitation of **increasingly young children**; the use of “**sextortion**”**[[2]](#footnote-2)** via social media.

**Concerning the combat against discrimination:** Increasing attention must be paid to not discriminating against certain children at risk of exploitation; certain children are in fact less taken into consideration due to having been placed in care (via *Aide Sociale à l’enfance*, *ASE*) or under the protection of the Judicial Youth Protection department (*PJJ*), or as a family or unaccompanied minors: this must change. France has shown itself capable of putting in place enhanced child protection for Ukrainian nationals. Similar resources and measures are expected for all children, whatever their country of origin, gender or degree of vulnerability (in particular, disabled children).

**Concerning their full protection:** Throughout the French Republic, these minors must at all times be considered as victims and never as “delinquents” or “illegal migrants”; in the case of doubt, they must automatically be assumed to be minors; and the transition to adult status at the age of 18 must be prepared and supported; cooperation on an international level is also a necessity.

These minors must systematically be provided with the support of an *ad hoc* administrator if alone or in danger within the family and the supreme interest of the child must always be taken into account in the measures adopted.

**Concerning the support provided to them:** Close and constant coordination between public services and the associations working with these minors who are victims or potential victims is essential. This must offer them conditions for accessing fundamental rights guaranteeing them healthcare, secure accommodation, suitable education, training, help with obtaining new identity documents if necessary, access to banking services which is a prerequisite for many rights (to obtain a work/study placement at 16 and, from 18, for reimbursements for health care or to receive benefits, etc.), decent living conditions… without forgetting access to culture and leisure activities. This supposes a clear commitment on the part of the French State via sustainable funding, concertation and the constant pooling of approaches and methods of access to rights with the network of specialist associations.

**Concerning compensation:** In the monitoring of these young people, the public authorities must integrate the notion of a long-term approach across all areas (legal, training, living conditions). They must take care in particular to ensure that becoming an adult does not disrupt the compensation process but is integrated into the reconstruction of the young person’s life.

**REPORT**

**I - ADDICTION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AND HOW CARE PACKAGES ARE NOT TAILORED TO MINORS**

**Observations**

Whether in the street or in institutions, professionals working with populations on the outermost margins of child protection packages note a worrying increase in addictions to a range of psychoactive products including medicines. These observations from the field have been confirmed by a recent memorandum published by France’s Observatory for Drugs and Addictive Trends (*l’Observatoire Français des Drogues et Tendances addictives* or OFDT)[[3]](#footnote-3).

This use generally serves as a support for committing crime: the products act as inhibition suppressants (in particular, Rivotril) and encourage the perpetration of crimes, frequently accompanied by violence; other products (such as pregabalin (Lyrica)) are for their part used for “recreational” purposes which, as reported by young people, offer a “high” and a way of forgetting about their living conditions.

Excess consumption of these molecules has significant impacts on the physical and mental health of these minors. Rates of habituation, tolerance and addiction are extremely high and withdrawal symptoms are real, leading in particular to self-harm. In addition, going “cold turkey” is dangerous to the health of young people.

The use of these products by unaccompanied minors (and young adults) with no fixed home is extremely widespread throughout France. The various criminal investigations launched in recent months have all indicated the influence of chemical products on minors subsequently sent out to commit crimes.

Whether addicted to or under the influence of drugs, young addicts commit crimes under constraint. In addition, the influence of drugs is not restricted solely to crime but is also very present in child prostitution. According to our observations, at least 50% of young girls who are victims of sexual exploitation for which we have received a request for admission have problems involving addiction to psychotropic substances.

Human trafficking via social media may also be linked to the phenomenon of addiction.

There is also the issue of trafficking in medicines between countries. The influence of chemical substances is poorly taken into account on both local, national and international levels.

The public authorities continue to pay insufficient attention to this issue and support political and media messages portraying vulnerable minors simply as delinquents, when they are often probable victims of human trafficking.

While the criminal law approach must re-focus on actions aimed at dismantling the organisations which exploit these young people, not only out of a concern for effectiveness but above all in order to ensure the protection of children’s rights, all stakeholders with responsibility for the protection of children must also develop the mechanisms used for management to ensure that these respond to the current issues being faced by these young people.

We in fact are now observing, to our regret: the longstanding unsuitability of the mechanisms used to identify and assess unaccompanied minors who are not seeking protection and who are in a situation of aggravated homelessness, the unsuitability of the care packages for the treatment of addiction when it comes to these communities of young people; no continuity in the monitoring of the treatment of addiction for your people placed in another local area; professional (including medical) practices which are still in their infancy and vary according to the practitioners involved.

Concerning care issues, and for minors who are victims of sexual exploitation, according to our statistics, a significant section of this group shows signs of mental health problems (excluding psychological trauma) which pre-dates the exploitation. During treatment, we are faced with the difficulty of obtaining admission to child and adolescent mental health services.

*In 2020, 2021 and since the start of 2022,* Hors la Rue *has identified 495 minors presenting with significant problems concerning the use of prescription drugs (Rivotril, Lyrica) and most probably being forced to commit crimes. This number includes 274 who have been monitored by our teams and almost all of these situations show indicators of exploitation.*

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

The combination of the absence of any appropriate care provision for the protection of children (taking into account the trauma caused to these young people, their addictions, etc.) with a criminal law approach aimed at sanctioning crimes committed by young people who are most probably victims of exploitation and trafficking constitutes the primary violation of the rights of these children in danger: this deprives them of appropriate care, damages their health and restricts their ability to assert their status as victims and obtain justice against those responsible for their exploitation. Their protection is made highly complex due to the need for specific medical treatment, which, for the moment, is unavailable in France.

***Recommendations***

*Support and ensure the sustainable development of outreach actions to encourage the tracing and identification of victims of human trafficking.*

*Encourage the use of incrimination on charges of human trafficking in order to combat effectively circumstances in which individuals are being forced into committing a crime.*

*Set up a genuine public policy for the protection of minors who are victims of trafficking for the purpose of committing crimes: provide training for professionals (police, justice system, child protection services, French public education system), set up a national database, create dedicated accommodation.*

*Render sustainable the local actions aimed at taking the phenomena more into account on the level of the courts through protocols and agreements and limit the impact of internal movements within the judicial system.*

*On a national and European scale, encourage investigations linked to the trade in benzodiazepine and pregabalin.*

*Strengthen addiction support measures aimed at minors.*

*Define medical protocols tailored to the experiences of young people for the treatment of addicted minors.*

*Put in place a transnational monitoring protocol making it possible to provide continuity in the support given to vulnerable young migrants.*

*Support the sharing of experience between European countries concerned by this phenomenon.*

*Promote exchanges with Morocco and Algeria to touch on issues relating to vulnerable minors, on a repeated basis (not centred exclusively on issues relating to returning home, undocumented migration and the combat against delinquency) and centred on taking the supreme interest of vulnerable children into account.*

**II – THE ISSUE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NOT SANCTIONING MINORS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING**

**Observations**

On the question of **not sanctioning children who are victims of human trafficking**, we have still made no progress in France. This is evidenced by the fact that a certain number of applications for the admission of minors who have been forced to commit crimes addressed to our associations are filed in the context of measures relating to punishments imposed by the courts or upon release from prison. Others are filed during the monitoring process carried out by the Judicial Youth Protection department (*Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse*), therefore implying the recognition of the individual as the perpetrator. However, and paradoxically, it must also be taken into account that had these young people not been recognised as perpetrators at the moment of committal or upon the handing down of a guilty verdict, there would not have been any measures taken by the Judicial Youth Protection department and therefore no detection and tracing of their situation as a victim by this same department. This means that the criminal records of young people who have been forced into crime and acknowledged to be victims (which has an impact on the granting of residency permits for certain of them) must be wiped.

More generally, **minors incited by third parties to commit crime are still rarely identified as victims of trafficking**. The criminal charges filed against them are not abandoned and therefore punishments are imposed on these minors for having taken part in unlawful activities despite the fact that they had been forced to do so, which is in contradiction with the international undertakings made by France[[4]](#footnote-4). **These sanctions can also lead to imprisonment**. Therefore, the question of their **identification as victims** remains primordial at each stage of the criminal law process, in order to be able to acknowledge that they do have this status and to offer them specific support. It seems essential that the response to the acts perpetrated should be determined in the light of this status, so that the aforementioned principle of not imposing excessive punishments leads to a concrete response (educational measures, restorative justice, compensation for the victims) and not to an absence of response or to imprisonment as the only response.

In addition, **detention, in particular with regard to unaccompanied minors, is widespread, in particular for supposed protection purposes**. However, it seems that, in practice, it is the precarious situation with which the latter are being faced itself, coupled with the absence of care and the difficulty of accessing education, medical care and mental health support which can on occasion lead to the perpetration of crime, which moreover young people are frequently forced into by third parties. Once they have served their prison sentence, they are then generally once again faced with the same human trafficking networks which exploited them prior to their incarceration.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

Minors who are victims of trafficking are considered by the Courts as delinquents and not as children in danger who should be protected.

***Recommendations***

*Increase the resources dedicated to training professionals (police, courts including the Judicial Youth Protection department) on the issue of the trafficking of minors forced into crime, in order to encourage the rapid identification of such minors and thereby prevent the criminal charges filed against them from leading to detention.*

*Set up specialist investigative services to combat this rapidly growing form of criminality.*

**III – TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR THE PROSTITUTION OF MINORS**

*Convention and optional Protocol concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography involving children*

***III.1 Definition of the sexual exploitation of children in the context of prostitution and the “sale of children” in law and in the French Penal Code***

**Observations**

French legislation has moved forward with the Law of 21 April 2021 aimed at protecting minors against sexual crimes and offences and incest, in particular:

- any minor aged 15 and under who is a victim of prostitution is considered as a victim of rape or sexual assault (articles 222-23-1 and 222-29-2 of the French Penal Code).

- creation of the offence of “sextortion” which, for an adult, consists of inciting a minor to perform sexual acts on the internet, the offence being proven even if the incitement had no effect

- increase in the sentences concerning pimping involving minors aged 15 and under.

Despite the recommendations made by the committee on children’s rights and by several working groups and bodies in France, the notion of the sexual exploitation of children in terms of prostitution still remains undefined in the French Penal Code, even if the notion is defined as a crime via several offenses (pimping, trafficking, recourse to prostitution, etc.). As far as we are concerned, there are important questions concerning the legal, ethical and practical understanding, between what is referred to as prostitution-related conduct and sexual exploitation (in day-to-day support work, the difference is genuine in terms of need, security context, etc.).

Studies have been carried out including research work completed by France’s National Observatory for the Protection of Children (*l’Observatoire National de la Protection de l’Enfance* or ONPE)[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

The absence of any legal definition of the notion of prostitution in the French Penal Code appears to be contrary to Articles 2 and 3 of the UN’s Optional Protocol which stipulates in particular that “Each State Party shall ensure that, as a minimum, the following acts and activities are fully covered under its criminal or penal law (…)”.

Furthermore, the only definition available is provided by the case law of the French Supreme Court (*Cour de cassation*): “Prostitution consists of the provision, in exchange for remuneration, of physical contact, of any kind whatsoever, for the satisfaction of the sexual desires of the other”.[[6]](#footnote-6) This definition imposes the requirement for physical contact in order to establish prostitution in legal terms. It appears to be restrictive with regard to the changes seen in the various forms of sexual exploitation which exist, in particular via the internet, with the development of the activities of “camgirls”. However, everything suggests that this is indeed prostitution: the profile of the young people concerned, the recruitment of young people, the search for clients, exploitation by third parties, consequences, etc. Those minors who are involved in these practices are therefore not covered by the protection afforded by the juvenile court judges, as is the case for those involved in prostitution according to the law of 4 March 2002.

**Recommendations**

*Establish new wording for the definition of prostitution in the French Penal Code in order to improve clarity, legibility and legal security.*

*In addition to codification, re-define and update the notion of prostitution with regard to changes in prostitution practices and conduct linked to the spread of the internet and new technologies, even if recent new offences make the prosecution of these new practices possible (for example, the offence of sextortion rendered a criminal offence by the law of 21 April 2021).*

*Use the definition of prostitution of male and female minors in accordance with Article 611 1 of the French Penal Code: The solicitation, acceptance or obtaining of acts of a sexual nature, physical or virtual, by or from a child involved in prostitution, including on a one-off basis, in exchange for remuneration, the provision of an advantage in kind or the promise of such an advantage.*

***III.2 Child protection. Combatting sexual exploitation, child prostitution.***

**Observations**

The law of 4 March 2002 states that children who are victims of prostitution are within the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. This means, in a majority of cases, that the child is entrusted to Child Protection services. However no specific mechanism exists for the handling of these complex situations. The minor is therefore directed towards the traditional mechanisms without further care.

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

This sometimes leads to the aggravation of the problem (the young person is sometimes more at liberty in a children’s home that in the family home, family links are sometimes weakened, this also frequently offers the opportunity to “recruit” friends, etc.).

**Recommendations**

*Ensure the implementation of the law of 2001 which requires each educational establishment to provide each child with 3 hours of education on sex and relationships each year, from the first to last years of schooling. To date, this requirement is far from being complied with, despite the importance emphasised by many education specialists.*

***III.3 – Child protection – Combatting exposure to pornography on the internet and on social media***

**Observations**

The changes made to Article 227-24 of the French Penal Code in response to the law of 30 July 2020 aimed at protecting victims of domestic violence states that the simple requirement to state one’s age in order to access pornographic content online is not sufficient in order to exonerate pornography websites from their criminal liability.

On 28 September 2022, the delegation on women’s rights attached to the French Senate published a report on pornography in which the impact of exposure to pornography on minors is detailed and several recommendations are made.

Despite the significant progress made concerning the combat against exposure to pornography, associations are observing that minors are easily able to access pornography on the internet and on social media and decry the failure to comply with the provisions of criminal law aimed at protecting minors from seeing harmful content. In practice, it remains extremely easy for minors to access pornography via pornography websites and certain types of social media make it possible to share and circulate pornographic, paedophile and zoophile content.

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

This early access to pornography has a very significant impact on the emotional and sexual imagination of young people, well in advance of any genuine sexual activity. This is particularly the case given that the taboos surrounding sexuality and the absence of education on sexual and relationship issues prevents any counter-messages promoting respect and healthy relationships from being put across. Children are the first victims of the commercial spectacle of pornography which spoils their representations and damages their experiences of physical love. The consequences for minors are many: trauma, sleep, attention and eating disorders, a distorted and violent image of sexuality, impact on relations between girls and boys, etc.

**Recommendations:**

*The adoption of law no. 2020-936 of 30 July 2020 led to the creation of an offence and the option of filing a complaint with the French telecoms regulator (Arcom) for formal notification or even to obtain the blocking of websites in the event of failure to comply with the law. Since the decree of December 2021, civil society has been able to use these rights, which is both encouraging and positive. However the procedure is lengthy. The effectiveness of this decree must be verified.*

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*Take into account the lawsuits filed by associations against pornographic websites and against Twitter and against internet access providers.*

*Ensure the application of the law on access by minors to pornography.*

*Make sure that sex and relationship education lessons are indeed being provided to schoolchildren.*

**III.4 – Websites publishing advertisements promoting human trafficking**

**Observations**

To date, the law defines as a pimp any person who offers material hosting (or aid) for the prostitution of others. But not when this is virtual. And yet online prostitution is constantly growing, in particular since the Covid-19 pandemic. For the moment, websites publishing advertisements offering sexual services are not considered to be in breach of the law, including when the age of the individual offering his or her services is not carefully controlled (the minors identified and contacted in the context of virtual outreach work were aged on average between 14 and 16). These platforms are making money through these advertisements, given that this is not a free service either for those being exploited or for the purchasers.

Adverts concerning minors who are victims of prostitution and trafficking can be identified through the virtual outreach activities carried out by specialist associations such as *l’Amicale du Nid*, via the instant messaging systems used by the teams in order to contact victims who have provided their telephone numbers in the advertisements published on specialist websites such as Lady Xena, Sex Model, 1baiser, Tescort, Wannonces. Teams contact these individuals via WhatsApp, Snapchat or Instagram using a template message which sets out the social support measures proposed, the aim being to encourage communication based on trust and providing a listening ear.

Digital outreach and contact work corresponds to the growth in online prostitution and the use of so-called discrete prostitution by organised crime networks, in particular since the Covid-19 pandemic. Even if the prostitution takes place online, the exploitation involved nevertheless remains totally real and its identification is then considerably complex. Digital outreach work makes it possible to counter this, in particular via reports filed using the Pharos website.

Nevertheless, identifying victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation remains complex via online messaging services; victims do not necessary respond to the contacts made by the association and it is not always possible to obtain the personal details necessary for an identification. The isolation in which minors who are victims are kept and difficulties in prosecuting websites publishing advertisements for prostitution both promote a climate that is not propitious to encouraging people to speak freely.

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

Nevertheless, websites such as Wannonces enable the prostitution of a large number of minors as these individuals are easily able to publish their offers and prices on the site and to find clients there. The latter can “rate” advertisers. Advertisements can contain photos and images of a sexual nature.

Lawsuits attempt to have their liability acknowledged. For the moment, the lawsuits which have filed against platforms are bogged down in procedural details. In the lawsuit against Vivastreet, it emerged that the platform was providing services to the forces of law and order, and was therefore enjoying particular protection.

**Recommendations**

*Review the relevance and ethical value of such practices (cf. police protecting host websites)*

*Take part as a civil claimant in a lawsuit against Wannonce, alongside the parents of victims, to ensure that the lawsuit is not abandoned, to calm the enthusiasms of the platforms and provide greater protection for minors. Officially appearing in these lawsuits as a civil claimant also makes it possible to point out that online prostitution is nevertheless an act of violence and emphasise the relevance of new wording for the definition of prostitution in the codes of law (cf. recommendation set out in III. 1)*

*Websites which facilitate prostitution must be considered to be acting as pimps, whatever the result of the Wannonce case.*

**III.5 – Access to psychological, medical and social support**

**Observation**

Today, only the victims of trafficking are covered by access to care pursuant to law 2016-444. This mechanism should be systematically contemplated for minors who are victims of prostitution (in theory, minors who are victims of prostitution are all victims of trafficking, however this offence is almost never upheld for French girls, which does not establish the right to care).

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

The right to healthcare and therefore to access healthcare must be respected, in particular for children who have been victims of trafficking.

**Recommendations**

*Ensure that all minors who are victims of prostitution are systematically classed as “victims of trafficking”.*

**III.6 – Help in dealing with relationships, sex and emotions**

**Observations**

The provision of education on relationships, emotions and sex has been enshrined in France’s Education Code since 2001 (Article L. 121-1 and L. 312-16) and has been the subject of regular ministerial circulars (the most recent being dated 12/09/2018) and, in 2016, thanks to the law on the abolition of the prostitution system, a chapter of the commoditisation of the body was introduced. However, implementation remains extremely variable from one school to another and suffers from a lack of resources. Teaching staff lack the training and materials required to lead these sessions. External presenters able to provide such lessons are few in number and their distribution across France is uneven. The 3 sessions per academic year required by the law are rarely actually provided and an increasing number of individual and joint efforts to censor certain sections of the sex education programme such as abortion, the right to love whoever you want, etc, have been observed. In certain locations, some associations have been defunded in order to prevent them from taking action in public middle and high schools. Many young people are now turning to social media or chatrooms to obtain information and sometimes end up on websites containing information that is untrue or incomplete or totally false.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

Minors experience difficulties in accessing information that is sufficient, reliable and neutral and are not easily able to find contacts to answer their questions. And all this at a time when the effects of the use of pornography and other distorted representations of sexuality are increasingly visible and are generating more and more questions among young people.

**Recommendations**

*Remind the heads of school establishments of the obligation to implement the laws of 2001 and 2016 and the circular of 2018*

*Draw up a more ambitious training plan with the French national education system on these issues*

*Reinforce the direct funding by the State of associations formally authorised to act.*

**IV - THE EXPERIMENTAL MEASURE OF 2016 AIMED AT PROTECTING TRAFFICKED MINORS**

**Observations**

In 2016, a system was agreed by the Paris Police Department, the Paris High Court (*Tribunal de Grande Instance*), Paris City Hall, the Regional Council (*Conseil départemental*) and the Inter-Ministerial Mission for the protection of women against violence and the combat against human trafficking, the Judicial Youth Protection department, the Paris Bar Association and the association “*Hors la rue*”. The second national action plan to combat human trafficking proposed the generalisation of the experimental measure for the protection of trafficked minors (<https://www.egalite-femmes-hommes.gouv.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2e-Plan-action-traite-etres-humains.pdf>)

To date, this system has still not been rolled out in a general manner across the whole of France. In addition, it is still particularly complicated to obtain lists of contacts able to facilitate the coordination of the physical removal of minors from the location of trafficking when this is necessary.

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

The failure by institutions to cooperate means that it is not possible for certain minors to be treated as victims of trafficking and provided with protection or even physically removed for a certain time from the location in which they have been exploited.

**Recommendations**

*After 6 years of experimenting, roll out this experimental system across France, on the basis of the corresponding assessment which has been carried out.*

*Make it easier for victim support associations to access lists of contacts within the various institutions.*

**V - CREATING SPECIALIST STRUCTURES FOR HELPING MINORS AND YOUNG VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Observations**

The lack of specialist structures in France able to provide care to minors who have been victims of trafficking has a negative impact on the processing of these minors or young adults, as it should be possible to make the move to adult status with a degree of flexibility tailored to each individual.

A centre designed to host minors and young adults (up to the age of 21) who have been victims or are presumed victims of human trafficking, whatever the form of exploitation involved, was set up one year ago by the association *Koutcha* after years of preparation. The creation of this centre was announced in a publication in the French Official Journal (*Journal official*) dated 5 May 2021. Open since 18 October 2021, the centre is managed by a specialised association and is dedicated to providing care to children and young people who have been victims of human trafficking. The centre offers support that is global (legal, educational, academic/professional, psychological, somatic and psychomotor support) and tailored to the individual for rolling and renewable periods of 6 months, before then helping the young person move on to other care structures.

Other initiatives have been taken by different associations. For example, on the basis of the “AdoSexo” service created by the *ACPE*, *l'Amicale du Nid* has set up a service in the Hérault area dedicated to supporting minor and young adult victims as well as young people at risk of prostitution. The objective is to recall the protection afforded by the law, describe the reality of prostitution, mention its consequences and enable the confirmation of victim status. A telephone hotline and web-based communication tools have been set up.

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

A vast majority of minors who have been victims of sexual exploitation or prostitution, or who are about to become victims, are not provided with any psychological or educational support.

The provision of specific care for minors involved in prostitution referred to in the report filed by France (and recalled above) concerns just a few places provided by *Koutcha* (currently a maximum of 6 young people). These are experimental measures. Whereas the number of young people concerned is estimated at over 20,000.

**Recommendations**

*Make provision as a matter of urgency for systems designed for young victims of all forms of human trafficking, with substantially greater capacity.*

*Provide for early support to young people who are in a situation or at risk of behaviours involving or leading up to prostitution. Which does not necessarily mean a centre. Drop-in or outreach support provided by professionals trained to provide listening and care services using the appropriate methods such as the motivational approach.*

**VI – INTEGRATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTO PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES.**

**Observation**

Professionals specialised in childhood and all those concerned by human trafficking, in particular, child prostitution, are experiencing significant difficulties faced with this scourge which is as difficult to comprehend as it is to process. For example, several professionals from units specialising in provide paediatric care to children in danger (*Unités d’Accueil Pédiatrique Enfants en Danger* or UAPED) have report cases of children brought in as a result of acts of violence who then go on to report exploitation. These units can therefore act both as a place for the identification of potential victims of human trafficking and as a tool in the care process for children and adolescents.

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

In the absence of any effective contact person, minors who are victims of human trafficking do not feel that they are either supported or understood and slip through the net concerning those professionals trying to help them. They fall deeper into their problems (dependency, addiction, illness, etc.).

**Recommendations**

*Integrate the issue of human trafficking (in particular, child prostitution) into all initial and continuous professional education programmes designed for Childcare, health, law and police professionals. In particular, workshops designed to share best practice and situation-based discussion groups should be organised on a local level.*

*Train professionals working in specialist paediatric units (Unités d’Accueil Pédiatriques Enfants en Danger or UAPED) (paediatricians, legal professionals, psychologists, child psychologists, police investigators) on the use of indicators and how to provide care for minors who are victims of human trafficking.*

**VII – MINORS BEING EXPLOITED FOR LABOUR**

**Observations**

Major failings are to be deplored in the appointment of *ad hoc* administrators enabling the establishment of the set of procedures used for unaccompanied foreign minors. The appointment of *ad hoc* administrators must be systematic and occur without delay when foreign minors have no legal representatives within French national territory.

Concerning minors who have been victims of trafficking for the purpose of exploitation through labour, the *CCEM* can reveal that the majority of alerts regarding situations come from the victim and when the facts date back to when the victim was a minor, generating a delay in particular in the provision of care. This is directly linked to the lack of information regarding this form of exploitation and its invisibility behind closed doors, in particular in relation to exploitation in domestic service roles.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

The absence of alerts relating to situations involving minors who are victims of trafficking for the purpose of exploitation through labour prevents these children from accessing protection and help at the time of the events and thereby extends their exploitation. The psychological impact is even more extended and intensified due to the failure to provide care or acknowledge the effects of the exploitation, the stranglehold, fear and humiliation, and the submission all experienced by the child.

**Recommendations**

*A better knowledge of this invisible phenomenon is essential on the level of civil society and institutions. Campaigns targeting the general public must be developed.*

*Train all stakeholders involved in providing social assistance to children on the subject of human trafficking in all of its forms and in particular in relation to exploitation through labour.*

*More generally, promote improved integration of the detection skills which, today, are the special reserve of various authorities, and involve associations with a view to better identifying minors who are victims, so as to better protect them.*

**VIII – PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON TRAFFICKED MINORS**

**Observations**

The sexual, physical and psychological violence experienced by children who are victims of human trafficking of course all have an impact on the construction of their personalities. The possibility of having access to psychological support is primordial, both for the well-being of the child and in the context of support throughout the legal process, if applicable. The recent opening of Psychological Trauma Centres is a major step forward, however this remains insufficient. Recent measures such as the “Monpsy” system (a series of 8 psychological consultations available on prescription) involve only a limited number of psychologists and need to be paid for up front.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

The care package, in particular that available without advance payment, is insufficient given the existing need in the field. In many towns and cities, the wait to get an appointment at a Psychological Care Centre is too long. The resources allocated to mental health are insufficient. Adolescents may be directed instead to adult psychiatric services which are not appropriate.

The absence of psychological support may prove to be dramatic for child victims: development of addictive behaviours, suicide risk, increased vulnerability to repeated exploitation, risk of exposure to new acts of violence.

**Recommendations**

*Ensure the provision of care that is tailored to meet the needs of child victims throughout the territory.*

*Encourage systematic referral to specialist paediatric units (Unités d’Accueil Pédiatriques Enfants en Danger or UAPED) for child victims of human trafficking who are to be questioned by the police, to ensure that they are provided with assistance from trained professionals, in an appropriate location, and that they are offered health care.*

*Guarantee continuity of care when the children is sent to other homes in other areas.*

*Develop training programmes designed for psychologists and professionals in connection with child and adolescent victims to ensure they know how to identify signs of psychological suffering.*

**IX - ACCOMMODATION**

**IX.1 – Emergency accommodation at the very start of life**

**Observations**

In the Ile-de-France region, various media sources estimate at approximately 2,000 per year the number of new-born infants who are discharged from maternity wards without any stable and safe home to go to. This involves in particular infants whose mothers do not have residency permits, many of whom have experienced serious violence as is frequent in the various forms of trafficking. These families are waiting for stable emergency accommodation via France’s Integrated Hosting and Signposting Service (*Service Intégré de l’Accueil et de l’Orientation* or SIAO) but in general have to wait more than one month before being able to access this. In the meantime, they are dependent on the “short term” 115 hotline which provides accommodation for one night or for a maximum of one week. With numerous interruptions and failures in provision lasting days or even weeks. 2-week old infants sleep in hospital corridors, in stations, underground car parks or in the street even in winter while these same families also experience serious difficulties in getting access to baby food and nappies.

There are however two systems in place to help and support pregnant women and new mothers.

Ante- and post-natal places (1,000 places have been created in the Ile de France region) however the issue is now that there is no plan to create any new places. We can request the creation of additional places with regard to the needs. These places are meant to be attached to the Maternal and Infant Protection service (*Protection Maternelle et Infantile* or PMI), to hospitals and maternity wards and accessible until the baby is aged 3 or 6 months. Women cannot be put back on the street without any solution in terms of accommodation.

Centres for mothers are intended to provide support to women with children who experience difficulties in their role as parent. These are funded by local government and the local authority is able to refer mothers to these centres.

A third system known as temporary paediatric care beds (*Lits Haltes Soins Santé* or LHSS) is currently being trialled. This system receives and provides support to women experiencing difficulties in pregnancy and where there is a risk to the unborn child: as a result of human trafficking, rape… this system benefits from very good funding and skilled staff. To date, this is an experimental system which is being trialled[[7]](#footnote-7) but which however remains somewhat unknown.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

The very survival of a large number of infants and older children is at risk, right in the heart of Paris. Poor living conditions also mean that they are at greater risk of developing illnesses and, more globally, vulnerabilities which impact and will impact their development.

**Recommendations**

*Strengthen the reception centres accessible to people without identity documents, staffed with social workers able to submit requests to the Integrated Hosting and Signposting Service (SIAO)*

*Increase the number of emergency accommodation places for families and provider easier access for undocumented individuals to types of emergency housing other than hotels or emergency accommodation centres (Centre d’hébergement d’urgences or CHU), such as Accommodation and Social Reintegration Centres (Centre d’Hébergement et de Réinsertion Sociale or CHRS) in particular.*

*Set up an organisation alongside the Integrated Hosting and Signposting Service which will make it possible to make genuine provision for young mothers about to leave maternity wards with nowhere to go.*

**IX.2 – Providing housing for vulnerable unaccompanied minors or victims of trafficking**

**Observation**

According to the law, no minor should be living in the street. However, to obtain the protection of Child Social Services (*Aide Sociale à l’Enfance* or ASE), children must prove their age and, unfortunately, the system frequently malfunctions as has been observed by associations and lawyers. In fact, while local authorities (which are responsible for unaccompanied minors) have put in place systems designed to determine a child’s age, these frequently decide that a young person is not in fact a minor and many children are therefore rejected by the local authority. However, this decision can be appealed before the juvenile court judge who is ultimately able to protect certain of these young people by handing down a placement or educational assistance measure. But the problem is that an appeal of this kind may take up to 18 months.

Koutcha notes that there are no reserved places (funded over a year, as for the *Ac-sé* network concerning adults) within its network, so no emergency places strictly speaking. Certain local authorities have created specific places but which are reserved for young people from the relevant local area, and therefore no physical removal from the network, so the young people remain at risk of negative influences and in danger. The only solution is for each local authority to create places but for these places not to be reserved for the local area.

**Violation of the rights of the Child**

With this lengthy appeal process of nearly 18 months and therefore during this period of legal void, minors are left to their own devices, mostly without a place to live.

**Recommendations**

*Oblige local authorities to take responsibility for these lone minors pending a decision from the juvenile court judge regarding their basic rights such as accommodation as well as food and healthcare. Ensure that the local authorities have sufficient means to carry out their child protection duties. Ensure that the accommodation proposed complies with the principle of the supreme interest of the child. Prohibit the placement of minors in hotels where educational support is automatically less and the risk of exploitation is greater.*

*Provide training to professionals working in centres, alongside unaccompanied minors, to help them identify potential victims of human trafficking and to support such victims.*

*Raise awareness among professionals working alongside minors regarding the risks of child trafficking (specialist educators, teachers, etc.), in particular linked to the challenges of the digital universe.*

*Promote the establishment of a partnership between the ASE, specialist associations, healthcare and legal professionals, etc.*

**X – DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING BANKING SERVICES EXPERIENCED BY UNACCOMPANIED MINORS OR MINORS PLACED IN CARE**

**Observations**

If, aged over 16, you are looking for a work/study placement, an internship or a job, you must have a bank account. This can however be very difficult for a foreign child, an unaccompanied or lone minor or a young person in care. These minors frequently experience difficulties linked to the lack of official documents enabling them to identify themselves, leading to a deadlock in the process for opening a bank account.

In addition, when children who have been victims of exploitation or trafficking are due to receive compensation following legal proceedings, this is often difficult to obtain. But when children do obtain this compensation, some banks raise all possible objections so as not to open the bank account required to invest the money which cannot be used until the child reaches the age of 18, unless otherwise decided by the courts further to a proposal from the *ad hoc* administrator, for example.

Certain banks will first open and then close an account on the grounds that they have not obtained paperwork which is in principle not actually necessary (address of a child’s parents when an *ad hoc* administrator has been appointed in the context of legal proceedings in which the parents are involved, etc.).

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

Access to a bank account is often a prerequisite for access to a wide range of rights.

The inability to actually obtain compensation further to legal proceedings is also itself a violation of the rights of the children concerned.

**Recommendations**

*Promote the idea of a universal bank account in France, as this already exists in other countries, for use in day-to-day life, so as to take part in a work/study programme at the age of 16 or following a court order, in order for all children to be able to benefit from the compensation to which they are entitled.*

**XI – RESPONSIBILITY OF LEGAL ENTITIES AND BUSINESSES WITH REGARD TO CHILDREN, IN PARTICULAR IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY**

**Observations**

In France as abroad, stakeholders from the tourism industry, in particular, the providers of hotel services and also booking platforms such as booking.com or Airbnb, are regularly used to deliver up victims of trafficking to clients. Several matters involving cases of sexual exploitation of adults and children have shed light on the preponderant role played by private entities from the tourism sector in the facilitation of the logistical organisation of exploitation in the case of trafficking. To cite just a few examples, two minors aged 12 and 14 were acknowledged as having been victims of aggravated pimping during a hearing held before the Criminal Court of Meaux in 2022 for having been sexually exploited at the *Première Classe* hotel in Chelles in 2021. In this case, in which *ECPAT France* was involved as a civil claimant, the executive assistant affirmed during questioning that she had been constantly escalating information to management regarding the situation but that management had never wished to get involved, despite being aware of the fact that underage girls were involved in prostitution using one of the hotel rooms provided in exchange for remuneration. Countless other cases could be cited involving hotels or apartments rented out via platforms such as Airbnb[[8]](#footnote-8). These tourism industry businesses therefore play a preponderant role in alerting the forces of law and order and issuing warnings in response to cases of trafficking in which exploitation is potentially occurring on their premises, and also in terms of prevention by highlighting in their internet and hard copy communications the obligations related to the legislation on the combat of trafficking, pimping and sexual assaults, including against minors.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

A large number of minors who are victims of trafficking and exploited in hotels both in France and abroad, as is evidenced by the cases cited above as well as by cases involving the sexual exploitation of minors in the context of paedophile activity with no fixed location, the Larroque case which was heard in court on 21 and 23 November 2022 being an excellent example of this, concerning a large number of Vietnamese street children who were the victims of rape and sexual assault perpetrated by this French national, in a hotel in Vietnam.

Private companies can be found to have criminal liability in France in cases of sexual exploitation. The French Penal Code acknowledges in particular that legal entities can be found guilty or complicit in offenses involving the prostitution of minors (225-12 French Penal Code), pimping (225-10 and 225-12 French Penal Code in which pimping in hotels is specifically cited) and human trafficking (225-4-6 French Penal Code). Fines and sentences are listed in Article 131-39 of the French Penal Code, including, for example, dissolution of a company, placement under court supervision, definitive closure or exclusion from public contracts, in relation to pimping, as companies can indeed be charged and found guilty

These offences represent a violation of the rights of minors given that it is on these premises that these minors become victims of multiple rapes and sexual assaults and which have a major impact on their mental health, their role in society, their emotional lives and their physical, sexual and reproductive health.

In addition, the delivering up of these victims in the context of sexual exploitation relating to prostitution, pimping or human trafficking allows clients to have access to sexual services priced by the victims. In this manner, hotels companies could, if aware of these facts, effectively be considered as accomplices in or even perpetrators of human trafficking in that they are able to generate an indirect profit from the hiring of hotel rooms or apartments for criminal purposes, and in that they are fully part of the chain of exploitation starting from the recruitment of the victim and leading up to her or her “placement on the market” to respond to a demand for sexual services on the part of individuals seeking sex with minors.

**Recommendations**

*In terms of prevention, ask tourism companies to draw up codes of conduct, in particular in the context of the Corporate Social Responsibility practices, to manage the risks of exploitation in their business premises. This could consist of the creation of an individual code of conduct or involve more widely their participation in one of the codes of conduct already put in place across a large number of hotels, in particular by signing up to the “The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism” supported by ECPAT and the World Tourism Organisation. Certain codes of conduct may, in a very precise manner, set out guidelines in particular on how to behave in response to suspected exploitation or trafficking on hotel premises and how to report this and to whom.*

*Another example of best practice in accordance with the law in force in France consists of asking to check ID documents in order to verify the age and identity of all clients who book a hotel room or apartment.*

*Industry professionals should also be trained on the risks linked to the hotel sector and exploitation (notably sexual) in their work, right from the start of their training. Each year, ECPAT France provides training of this kind in the context of the “BTS Tourism” degree course. This type of training should be widened and become the subject of more in-depth training or awareness raising.*

*In terms of punishments, it should be possible to take effective action against legal entities and for the latter to be found guilty by the courts when involved in offences involving trafficking or other forms of exploitation of which such legal entities are aware.*

*Many companies should develop within their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes policies making it possible to prevent and combat trafficking and the exploitation of human beings. While this clearly applies to the tourism sector, other business in high-risk industries (in particular, agriculture and fish farming, textiles, construction and the digital economy) should be targeted to enable the effective combat of human trafficking. Certain companies are in this regard bound by the Duty of Vigilance of 2017 however its application still needs to be detailed and the type of companies concerned by these measures could be extended, in accordance with the draft European act on the Duty of Vigilance for corporate entities[[9]](#footnote-9).*

*More globally, raise awareness and promote the adoption of best practice to companies from a wide range of sectors and, in particular, those in the tourism sector, on the subject of preventing human trafficking and notably child labour, within their supply chains.*

**XII – EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING INVOLVING DISABLED CHILDREN**

**Observations**

Children with disabilities are more likely to be victims of human trafficking due to a range of factors: they frequently rely on third parties to provide them with help on a daily basis, a situation of dependency may result in these third parties taking advantage of the child. Children with cognitive or mental disorders fail to take on board the tools available to them in terms of awareness of the risks of trafficking.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

The disabilities of certain children may limit the communication and comprehension of information. Such children are sometimes not able to determine what constitutes a crime. They will therefore have difficulties in seeing themselves as victims and enforcing their rights.

**Recommendations**

*Train those working with minors with disabilities (healthcare professionals, schools, social services, etc.) to ensure that they raise awareness among minors at risk, identify the risks of exploitation of minors and provide them with guidance.*

**XIII – SURROGACY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE: A REVEALING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER NATIONALITIES**

**Observations**

The Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have highlighted the number of French nationals using surrogate mothers in Ukraine, a country in which this practice is legal. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many babies were stuck in Ukraine and, even once restrictions were relaxed, an unknown number of babies could not be collected by their intended parents. A similar fate has awaited babies born since the start of the conflict or who will soon be born. Other babies have gone off to other countries.

A contractual relationship exists between the surrogate mother and the family wishing to have the baby, which enhances the risk of “commoditisation”. The non-availability of the human body is an essential principle of French law. Surrogacy entails risks relating to human trafficking and the sale of children.

**Violations of the rights of the Child**

Against the background of the war, the use of surrogate mothers entails risks to the unborn child and to children born to surrogates: placement of the child in an orphanage if the intended parents, clients of the surrogacy agency, change their intentions, for example. And, for children placed in orphanages, there is a significant risk of negligence, sale with a high risk of exploitation (for example, sexual or domestic exploitation, kidnapping and organ harvesting, etc.).

Ukrainian law states that the birth certificate of a child born to a surrogate mother must indicate the intended parents as the biological parents. There is therefore a high risk that children born under these conditions will be deprived of the fundamental right of each child to have an identity and access to his or her origins. This dramatic situation will highlight concerning aspects of the regulatory framework governing surrogacy in certain countries including Ukraine, of the issue from a transnational point of view, with regard to the protection of children and the risks of trafficking.

**Recommendations**

*According to the legislation in force, children born to surrogate mothers are extremely vulnerable and not protected from birth. All children must have an identity.*

*The financial aspect of surrogacy and the commercial practices adopted by the relevant agencies should be better understood my couples starting down this road and subject to stricter controls.*

***APPENDIX 1***

**SUMMARY**

**PROMOTING ACCESS TO BASIC RIGHTS FOR ALL CHILDREN**

**I – Addiction among young people and how care packages are not tailored to minors**

**II – The issue of the principle of not sanctioning minors who are victims of trafficking**

**III – Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation or the prostitution of minors**

III.1 - Definition of the sexual exploitation of children in the context of prostitution and the “sale of children” under French Criminal Law (in the French Penal Code).

III.2 - Child protection. Combatting sexual exploitation, child prostitution

III.3 – Child protection. Combatting exposure to pornography on the internet and on social media

III.4 – Websites publishing advertisements promoting human trafficking

III.5 – Access to psychological, medical and social support

III.6 – Help in dealing with relationships, sex and emotions

**IV – The experimental measure of 2016 aimed at protecting trafficked minors**

**V - Creating specialist structure for helping minors and young victims of human trafficking**

**VI – Integrating human trafficking into professional training programmes**

**VII – Minors being exploited for labour**

**VIII – Psychological impact on trafficked minors**

**IX – Emergency accommodation and provision of housing for trafficked minors**

IX.1 – Emergency accommodation at the very start of life

IX.2 – Providing housing for vulnerable unaccompanied minors or victims of trafficking

**X – Difficulties in accessing banking services experienced by unaccompanied minors or minors placed in care**

**XI – Responsibility of legal entities and businesses with regard to children, in particular in the tourism industry**

**XII - Exploitation and trafficking involving disabled children**

**XIII – Surrogacy and human trafficking in the context of the war in Ukraine: a revealing example for other nationalities**

***APPENDIX 2***

***Associations which are members of "Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains****"
Collective coordinated by: Geneviève Colas, genevieve.colas@secours-catholique.org*

*tel. 06 71 00 69 90 -* ***www.contrelatraite.org***

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| --- | --- |
| *Action Catholique des Femmes* *www.actioncatholiquedesfemmes.org*  | We focus on everything that concerns the place and dignity of women. |
| *Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants.* *www.acpefrance.fr*  | Since 1986, ACPE has been combatting child prostitution and all forms of sexual exploitation: abuse on the internet, child pornography, paedophilia.  |
| *Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l’Homme* *www.aedh.org*  | Protecting victims of trafficking and defending their rights. |
| *Amicale du Nid* *www.amicaledunid.org*  | The association (8 establishments, 200 employees) meets victims of prostitution and trafficking in the field (5,000/year) and supports 4,300 people (in particular, women and their children) with their reintegration into society. The association considers prostitution and trafficking as a form of violence which is incompatible with human dignity and gender equality. |
| *Armée du Salut,* *www.armeedusalut.fr*  | The *Armée du Salut* (Salvation Army), acting internationally to combat human trafficking, is opposed to all forms of commoditisation, exploitation and harm to the dignity of the human being in general and of women in particular. This includes prostitution, pornography and sexual tourism.  |
| *AFJ* *www.foyer-afj.fr*  | A centre which ensures the identification, provision of a safe haven for and multi-disciplinary support for women who have been victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.  |
| *Association pour la Réadaptation Sociale* *www.ars13.org*  | Working with minors and young adults isolated from their families and from wider society, in particular, young victims of trafficking, in order to support them as they rebuild their lives and define their personal projects. |
| *Aux captifs, la libération*[*www.captifs.fr*](http://www.captifs.fr/) | Since the 1980s, the association *Aux Captifs, la Libération* has been involved in outreach work in the street alongside vulnerable individuals and victims of prostitution in Paris, in the Bois de Boulogne and Bois de Vincennes districts. |
| *Comité Contre l’Esclavage Moderne - CCEM* *www.esclavagemoderne.org*  | The CCEM provides psychosocial and legal support to victims of human trafficking for economic purposes, throughout France, helping them access their rights and recover their dignity and enabling their rehabilitation. Thanks to its expertise, CCEM provides training and information to professionals and the general public and plays a major role in establishing case law on a national and European level. |
| *Comité Protestant évangélique pour la Dignité Humaine www.cpdh.org*  | Promoting respect for human dignity, the defence and protection of the rights of the child, of women and of men more generally, as well as protecting the right to life of each human being.  |
| *Congrégation Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur, www.bonpasteur.com*  | Committed to combating trafficking on a local, national and international level in 72 countries.  |
| *Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l’Enfant COFRADE* *www.cofrade.fr*  | Protecting children against human trafficking, dismantling trafficking networks and eradicating all forms of child exploitation is an essential combat in all countries, on all levels.  |
| *ECPAT France* *www.ecpat-france.org*  | ECPAT France combats the sexual exploitation of children. The association is therefore involved in combatting all forms of abuse and exploitation which contribute to this, in particular, child trafficking.  |
| *Espoir-CFDJ – Service Jeunes Errants*  | Combatting human trafficking also means playing an active role in the struggle to ensure respect for the supreme interest of the child and for the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.  |
| *Fédération des acteurs de la solidarité (FAS)*[*www.federationsolidarite.org*](http://www.federationsolidarite.org) | As a generalist network involved in the combat against exclusion, the Federation promotes social work, provides a platform for discussions between all stakeholders from the social care sector, raises public awareness and informs decision-makers about situations involving exclusion, observers and analyses poverty, rehabilitation and social work. |
| *Fédération de l’Entraide Protestante (FEP)* *www.fep.asso.fr*  | The *Fédération de l’Entraide Protestante* brings together several hundred associations working to help individuals who have been excluded from society, are suffering or are extremely vulnerable.  |
| *Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles* *www.fondationscelles.org*  | Combatting trafficking for the purpose of prostitution via documentary resources, information, providing a perspective and raising awareness among public and social stakeholders.  |
| *Hors la rue* *www.horslarue.org*  | *Hors la Rue* works with non-French minors in danger in the Paris region. Supporting children and adolescents most at risk and least able to seek help through daily rounds and the running of a day centre. Focusing on the basic right to protection of the child, of minors in a situation of exploitation and of victims of human trafficking. |
| *Justice et Paix France* *www. justice-paix.cef.fr*  | Human trafficking is an attack on individual dignity, a scourge that must be constantly fought. |
| *Koutcha* | Offering a personalised welcome allowing minors who have been victims of trafficking to break free from the stranglehold of their traffickers, to benefit from support enabling them to acknowledge their status as victims of trafficking and take part in a tailor-made training programme, regarding basic rights, enabling them over time to join a more traditional system. |
| *La Cimade*[*www.lacimade.org*](http://www.lacimade.org/) | *La Cimade*’s mission consists of welcoming, guiding and defending foreign nationals. One of its key actions consists of welcoming, guiding and defending foreign nationals faced with administrative difficulties linked to residence or asylum, including victims of human trafficking. |
| *La Voix de l’Enfant**www.lavoixdelenfant.org* | This federation of associations providing assistance to children in distress founded on 20 July 1981 and governed by the French law on associations (Act of 1st July 1901) aims to “listen to and defend any child in distress, anywhere, anytime”. In 2019, it was composed of 81 member associations and had a presence in 103 countries. |
| *Les Champs de Booz* *www.champsdebooz.fr*  | Hosting and helping vulnerable female asylum seekers in the Ile de France region as a protective measure given their vulnerability, particularly with regard to trafficking.  |
| *Mouvement du Nid* *www.mouvementdunid.org*  | Providing support for prostituted individuals.  |
| *Organisation Internationale Contre l’Esclavage Moderne (OICEM) www.oicem.org*  | Providing support each day to men, women and children who have been victims of human trafficking on the path to rebuilding their lives through the provision of legal assistance, social and educational support and psychological aid.  |
| *Planète Enfants & développement**www.planete-enfants.org*  | Our mission: to protect, educate and rehabilitate the most vulnerable children. To offer children a stable and stimulating non-violent protective environment, the conditions necessary for their development and fulfilment. |
| *SOS Esclaves* *www.sos-esclaves.com*  | The combat against modern slavery begins with acknowledging the status of the victim. Victims must also be granted citizen status.  |
| *Secours Catholique - Caritas France**www.secours-catholique.org* *(coordinator of the "Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains" Collecdtive)*  | Combating human trafficking means breaking the vicious circle driven by poverty which promotes this phenomenon. This can be done through information, listening, denunciation, action, training, advocacy, acting as a network, together, on a local and global scale.  |

1. See 2015 report

<http://www.contrelatraite.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/38-Rapport_alternatif_sur_la_traite_des_enfants_en_France.pdf>

and the supplemental observations

<http://www.contrelatraite.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/40-Observations_complementaires_du_Collectif.pdf>

and the observations resulting from the presentation by France

<http://www.contrelatraite.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/39-Observations_immediates_du_Collectif_suite_a_l_audition_de_la_France.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Type of blackmail consisting of threatening to send an intimate photo or video of a child to others if he or she refuses to hand over money [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/eisxcg2ca.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Art 26, Council of Europe Convention [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://onpe.gouv.fr/actualite/publications-lonpe-sur-prostitution-mineurs> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Cass.crim [Supreme Court, Criminal Division], 25 March 1996 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.federationsolidarite.org/actualites/experimentation-lits-haltes-soins-sante-lhss-pediatriques/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.leparisien.fr/paris-75/paris-le-reseau-de-proxenetes-louait-des-appartements-airbnb-29-01-2018-7529667.php> ; <https://www.francebleu.fr/infos/faits-divers-justice/proxenetisme-gros-coup-de-filet-a-chambery-1635241703>

 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000034290626/> ;<https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/15/rapports/cion_lois/l15b5124_rapport-information> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)