



Speak out to break down the wall that makes underage prostitution invisible

Report on the underage prostitution in France

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pistes solidaires



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Introduction

Although prostitution of minors is prohibited by national, European and international law, experts note a lack of specific measures to prevent and combat this scourge, which probably affects hundreds of thousands of minors in Europe.

The subject is taboo and there is limited data up until now on juvenile prostitution. Jericho intends to contribute to making this phenomenon known, visible and talked about so that it can be treated.

The project aims to gather, create and share knowledge on this phenomenon in France, Italy and Greece. Through an audacious campaign, it will inform and in so doing develop prevention mechanisms among young people, suggest solutions to distraught parents and support the authorities in developing protection policies.

A main objective of the project: building knowledge and creating awareness on the subject

One specific part of the project activities is to gather and strengthen knowledge on the phenomenon of juvenile prostitution, to associate a community of actors and create information content on different media, for different audiences.

In this frame, the project's partners work together to create and deliver:

- country reports;
- animated web series;
- prevention resource kits ;
- information guides for parents;
- policy papers;
- press kits.

Country report's objectives

The aim of the country reports is to present the state of play on juvenile prostitution in each partners' country by bringing together material developed on the subject by relevant actors in France, Italy, Greece and in Europe and to propose a thorough stakeholders mapping list.

For each country, the partners have produced a report through a compilation of literature review and data that have been collected during the research phase.

Project partners have chosen the methodology that was the most suitable in their country's context, since the topic of minors prostitution is tackled really differently in the partner countries.

Introduction

Country report's contributors

This report is the result of the collaboration between Pistes-Solidaire and MEITIS, both French organisations. It was drafted as part of the "Jericho" project, supported by the European Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) - call for proposals to protect and promote the rights of the child.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of current research and existing measures to prevent and support minors in prostitution.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON PROSTITUTION OF MINORS

At the European and international levels, various directives and conventions have been adopted aiming at addressing all manifestations of child sexual abuse, including the prostitution of minors, while simultaneously offering comprehensive support to the victims.

European level

At the European and international levels, various directives and conventions have been adopted aiming at addressing all manifestations of child sexual abuse, including the prostitution of minors, while simultaneously offering comprehensive support to the victims.

More precisely, at the EU level, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the so-called "Lanzarote Convention", requires the criminalisation of all kinds of sexual offences against children, including inter alia: sexual abuse, child prostitution and pornography, corruption of children, solicitation of children for sexual purposes. The Convention sets out several measures to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse, such as: the screening, recruitment and training of people working in contact with children, making children aware of the risks and teaching them to protect themselves, as well as monitoring measures for offenders and potential offenders. It also establishes programmes to support victims, encourages people to report suspected sexual exploitation and abuse and sets up telephone and internet helplines for children. . Moreover, the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings – encompassing all forms of trafficking (national, transnational, linked or not to organised crime) and taking in all persons who are victims of trafficking (women, men, children) – provides for a series of rights for victims of trafficking, in particular: the right to be identified as a victim, to be protected and assisted, to be given a recovery and reflection period of at least 30 days, to be granted renewable residence permit and to receive compensation for the damages suffered.

The “Child Sexual Abuse Directive” (Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography) also introduces important provisions on the issue, such as: the criminalisation of possession and acquisition of child sexual abuse material and provisions to remove or block websites containing such material. It also sets out an obligation for the member states to provide law enforcement authorities and prosecution with effective tools to investigate child sexual abuse offences and identify the child victims at an early stage.

The “Anti-trafficking Directive” (Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims) sets out minimum standards to be applied throughout EU in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, such as increased criminal penalties, a non-prosecution and non-punishment provision for victims, a requirement for member states to appoint national rapporteurs or establish equivalent mechanisms to collect statistical data on trafficking in human beings and monitor the implementation of anti-human trafficking policy at national level.

Also, the “Victims’ Rights Directive” (Directive 2012/29/EU) establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of all crimes, regardless of their nationality and residency status. As soon as a crime is committed or criminal proceedings take place in the EU, the victim must be granted all the rights established by the directive. Its main goals are to ensure that victims of crimes: receive appropriate information, support and protection and may participate in criminal proceedings. Noteworthy is the fact that it adopts a broad definition of the term “victim”, providing those rights not only to the victims but also to their family members, who are considered indirect victims (APAV, 2016).

International level

At international level, the main instrument for the protection of children’s rights, including their protection from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation (article 19) is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Article 34 of the CRC requires states parties to protect children from “*all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse*”. Also important is article 39, which requires States to provide recovery and reintegration of a child victim in an environment that fosters their health, self-respect and dignity. CRC is supplemented by the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC), which inter alia lays down minimum standards for protecting child victims in criminal justice processes and recognises the right of victims to seek compensation (UNICEF. Innocenti Research Centre, 2009, p. 2).

Legal framework on prostitution of minors

In addition, in 2000, UN also adopted the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Palermo Protocol), supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

All in all, as it can be inferred from the abovementioned the existing legal framework on the prostitution of minors encompasses a wide range of provisions, covering various aspects related to prevention, intervention, prosecution of offences and protection of victims. However, a noteworthy observation is that the severity of penalties, as highlighted also by the interviewees, fails to align with the gravity of such heinous acts. This discrepancy is further compounded by the existence of mitigating circumstances within the penal system, which could potentially result in offenders being released after serving only a limited number of years. The existence of a thorough legal framework is essential in preventing and combating the prostitution of minors. Although, equally significant is its effective implementation, which, as revealed in the interviews, suffers from various challenges: underreporting, insufficiently trained personnel within the competent authorities and delays in fulfilling the undertaken commitments.

In France

The subject of prostitution of minors is a subject with which France has been concerned for several years. Since 2002 until the last law known as Taquet in 2022, the fight against prostitution of minors and more generally the fight against prostitution is reflected in accordance with the Code of Social Action and Families and the Penal Code.

The Act of 4 March 2002 **prohibits the prostitution of minors in France throughout the territory of the Republic.**

The law also stipulates that "Any minor who engages in prostitution, even occasionally, is deemed to be in **danger and is subject to the protection of the juvenile judge** under the educational assistance procedure".

KEY ELEMENTS OF OTHER LAWS RELATED TO PROSTITUTION

May 2011 It is mentioned in the penal code that procuring is **punishable by ten years' imprisonment and a fine of 150,000 euros, especially when committed against a minor.**

What is meant by procuring in the penal code:

- "to assist, assist or protect the prostitution of others";
- "to profit from the prostitution of others, to share the proceeds thereof or to receive subsidies from a person habitually engaged in prostitution";
- "hiring, training, diverting or exerting pressure on a person to engage in prostitution or continue to engage in prostitution".

Legal framework on prostitution of minors

April 2016 A new law repeals the offence of soliciting^[1] and provides for the criminalisation of clients of prostitutes. It provides for measures to **protect and support prostitutes, who are now recognised as victims and no longer as offenders**.

In addition, the law provides for the implementation of prevention and awareness-raising actions concerning the fight against the commodification of bodies.

August 2018 A new law extends the statute of limitations for sexual crimes committed against minors to 30 years (instead of 20) after the majority of alleged victims and the statute of limitations runs from the victim's majority.

April 21st 2021 To better protect children, the law creates new sexual offences. No adult may invoke the sexual consent of a child if he or she is under 15 years of age, or under 18 years of age in the case of incest.

It was also on this date that parliamentarians created an offence punishing the fact that an adult incites a minor to engage in sexual practices on the Internet to combat the phenomenon of "sextortion" (punishable by 7 years in prison and 10 years if the victim is under 15 years old).

April 23rd 2021 New criminal provisions particularly protective of minors have been adopted: the use of prostitution by a minor is an offence punishable by 5 years' imprisonment and a fine of €75,000; It is a crime punishable by 20 years' imprisonment when the victim is under 15 years of age.

February 2022 A new law amends the Code of Social Action and Families. It introduces the obligation for Child Social Assistance to "provide material, educational and psychological support to minors who engage in prostitution, even occasionally, deemed to be in danger".

The laws passed in this area are therefore numerous and the Government continues to take action, despite the fact that it is complex to know the true extent of the phenomenon in France.



[1] Seeking to attract clients aggressively or illegally in prostitution.

DATA ON PROSTITUTION OF MINORS – STATISTICS AND PROFILE OF VICTIMS

There is a significant lack of data gathering, analysis and distribution at all levels – national, regional and international – when it comes to minors impacted by prostitution (UNICEF. Innocenti Research Centre, 2008, p. 6)

Lack of comprehensive data at the EU level

A lack of comprehensive data regarding the issue of prostitution of minors is also observed at the EU level. The available data indicate that the prostitution of minors primarily involves teenage girls between the ages of 14 and 17, but the involvement of boys has also been reported in several countries in the region. More data are available on the issue of child trafficking. According to the latest available, between 2017 and 2018, almost every fourth victim of trafficking in the EU is a child, 78% of child victims were girls, 60% of the child victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation and three-quarters (75%) of all child victims in the EU were EU citizens (European Commission, 2021, p. 12).

Gender perspectives

Despite being recognised as a significant concern, the issue of prostitution of boys has not been thoroughly investigated and continues to go unnoticed and unaddressed, due inter alia to:

“lack of gender perspective in research and programmes, the stigma attached to homosexuality, a tendency not to see males as victims of prostitution” (ECPAT International, 2014, p. 11), and the under-reporting linked with it (European Commission, 2021, p. 13). While the data remains limited, it is crucial to acknowledge that both girls and boys can be victims of prostitution, and efforts should be made to address the issue comprehensively for all genders.

Implications of limited data for prevention and combat

The scarcity of available and reliable statistics both at national and EU levels further hinders the effective prevention and combat of the prostitution of minors, as it limits the development of informed policies and measures to combat this form of exploitation.

Knowing the extent and realities of prostitution of minors in France is still complex. A recent report submitted to the French Government[2] provides a better understanding of the phenomenon, although further studies still need to be carried out to better understand it. We have also based our research on different studies, publications and reports from organisations such as ONPE (National Observatory for Child Protection).

Some general key figures on prostitution of minors in France

Officially, there are no precise figures for prostitution of minors. To date, the voluntary sector estimates the number of underage prostitutes in France between 7,000 and 10,000 underage prostitutes.

However, everyone agrees that this figure is an underestimate.

A quantitative approach appears, with the evaluation of the researcher Aziz Essadek who mentions that prostitution would concern in France around 15,000 minors under the Child Social Assistance.

This probably puts more than **20,000 minors in prostitution in the general population.**

Other figures to consider:

- The **perpetrators of pimping are mostly men** between the ages of **18 and 24**
- **99% of clients are men.**

The COVID-19 health crisis has aggravated the phenomenon of prostitution of minors in France, especially in housing estates.

According to statistical data from the police and gendarmerie services, as well as prosecutors' offices:

- **From 2016 to 2020, cases of prostitution of minors reaching the police and gendarmerie as well as prosecutors' offices increased by 68%;**
- **In 2020, among the victims of procuring of French nationality, one in two was a minor.**

Victim profiles

The same report submitted to the Government in June 2021 made it possible to draw up major trends concerning the profile of minors who are victims of prostitution.

[2] Report of the working group on child prostitution submitted to Mr Adrien TAQUET, Secretary of State for Children and Families, 28 June 2021

The majority of victims are:

- **Girls, of French nationality**
- **Aged 13 to 17** with entry into prostitution between the ages of 14 and 15 for more than half of cases
- In **vulnerable situations** and from **all social backgrounds**.

These minors often have in common:

- To be in a situation of family breakdown with emotional and/or educational deficiencies
- **To have been victims or confronted with violence, especially within the family, before entering the prostitution system;**
- **Not to see themselves as victims and to trivialize their conduct.** Worse, these minors value the many beneficial effects of their practice: financial autonomy, meeting the basic needs of affection and attention, feeling of regaining control of one's life, feeling of belonging to a group.
- Money as the most important motivation to start a practice of prostitution. The objective is most often to get out of a precarious situation because many minors have run away when they enter a situation of prostitution.
- Emotional and relational difficulties and have poor mental health (loss of self-confidence, change in relationship with the body, feeling of insecurity...)

Contrary to what many people may think, it must be borne in mind that while desocialized minors are particularly vulnerable, those from more privileged backgrounds are not spared from this reality. Young girls, exposed to many reality shows and social networks where they can follow celebrities sharing their intimacy, find it difficult to understand what limits to place in their relationship with each other.

We can also cite other studies that clearly and more precisely define the profile of young victims of prostitution:

2021 SEINE-SAINT-DENIS OBSERVATORY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (OBSERVATOIRE DES VIOLENCES ENVERS LES FEMMES DE SEINE-SAINT-DENIS)

The study was based on an examination of 101 files of victims of prostitution. These included 99 girls and 2 boys taken into care by the Seine-Saint-Denis child welfare authority in 30 towns.

The profiles that have been identified:

- A history marked by violence suffered before entering prostitution (7 out of 10 girls had suffered sexual violence before entering prostitution. In 8 out of 10 cases, this involved rape or attempted rape. The majority had been subjected to more than one incident. 1 girl in 2 is a co-victim of domestic violence suffered by her mother);

- Violence that is difficult for the courts to recognise,
- A history of failure and violence at school (dropping out, harassment, etc.),
- Major physical and mental health problems (hospitalisation, addiction, suicide attempts, etc.).

This type of profile is confirmed by Home Meitis, partner organisation of this project, taking care of several underage girls who have been involved in prostitution.

Firstly, these young people are in a situation of extreme vulnerability: emotional, family and identity. This vulnerability leads to breakdowns in social connections and isolation. Some of these girls have also experienced bullying at school. These girls idealise the world in which they would like to live.

These minors in prostitution show unpredictable behaviours. Psychologically unstable, they are at risk of committing acts such as scarification and suicide attempts.

They lose confidence in adults and no longer find meaning in relationships with others.

Some minors have intellectual development problems and others have neurodevelopmental disorders.

Secondly, these minors are put in touch with their future pimp via the internet and social networks.

These young people are then manipulated and undergo a form of "brainwashing", becoming part of a group. 90% of these young people say that they agree with these prostitution situations. Two main techniques for approaching young people are identified: seduction via a "lover boy", and grooming via gift exchanges.

In addition to all this, during the writing phase of this report, a meeting has taken place with Marie Rabatel, President of AFFA (Francophone association of autistic women).

She underlined the fact that **disability is not taken seriously enough** and that children with disabilities are particularly affected by prostitution.

Young people with disabilities are 5 times more at risk of sexual violence (6 to 7 times more for people with intellectual disabilities).

Young girls then put themselves in a position of dissociation and submission. Little attention is paid to the trauma of prostitution.

Marie Rabatel recommends working on raising awareness of intimacy and human relationships, self-esteem, and girl/boy relationships from an early age (nurseries).

Prostitution of minors: a protean phenomenon

The situations in which minors find themselves in prostitution are numerous and sometimes very different, which can make the study of the phenomenon even more complex.

This is reflected in:

- The **connection** between customers and pimps, which can take place on social networks, on specialized sites ...
- The different **behaviors between pimps and victims**: affection, psychological, physical, sexual violence...
- The diversity of **places of prostitution**: temporary rentals via online platforms, hotels, clients' homes, private apartments...
- The **duration** of prostitution: from one day to more than a year
- Frequency
- The different **rates**
- ...

Although there is still little research in the field of prostitution of minors, the issue is taken seriously in France, at various levels, to take care of young victims of prostitution and to act in the field of prevention.



RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES/AUTHORITIES TO TACKLE JUVENILE PROSTITUTION

Agencies/authorities against prostitution of minors

At European and international levels

At European and international levels, there are several organisations that work on fighting child trafficking: the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the European Police Office (Europol), the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the EU Judicial Cooperation unit (Eurojust), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), the EU agency for Fundamental Rights, the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound). According to the Joint Statement that they signed on June 13, 2018, they have committed to the following: countering the culture of impunity for perpetrators, abusers and exploiters, enhancing their focus on prevention, taking into account the entire trafficking chain inside and outside the EU, ensuring a gender-specific and child-sensitive approach, addressing the vulnerabilities of victims and ensuring accountability towards them, enhancing the effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions, promoting cross-border and internal law enforcement and judicial cooperation, strengthening training activities, sharing good practices, improving information sharing within the limits of data protection rules.

There is also the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, based in the European Commission, who is responsible for improving the coordination and coherence among EU institutions, EU agencies, member states and international actors for developing existing and new EU policies to address trafficking in human beings. Also, ECPAT International is the only international NGO network – currently comprised of 124 civil society organisations in 103 countries – solely dedicated to the fight against sexual exploitation of children, by coordinating research, advocacy and action towards this aim.

Responsible agencies/authorities to tackle juvenile prostitution

In France

The fight against prostitution of minors is currently taken into account in several public policies, the main ones being: the fight against sexist and sexual violence, the fight against trafficking in human beings or the protection of children, gender equality.

These public policies are supported by different entities, namely the State, local authorities but also justice and law enforcement, which can sometimes make national steering difficult.

Public authorities engaged in the fight against prostitution of minors:

- The Prime Minister via his Secretary of State for Children
- The Ministry of Solidarity and Health
- The Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of the Interior and decentralised departments via the Prefects
- The police and gendarmerie services (Judicial Police, Judicial Protection of Youth, vice brigade, juvenile brigade, Border Police)
- Departments, in charge of Child Social Assistance

More specifically, the existing structures in France are:

Local Victim Support Committees (CLAV)

Co-chaired in each department by the prefect and the public prosecutor, they are composed of representatives of the decentralized services of the State (directorates of social cohesion, public security), justice (magistrate delegated to associative policy and access to law of the Court of Appeal, prosecutors of the Republic of the department), local authorities and public services (ARS, Pôle emploi, assurance maladie...), the president of the departmental council, representatives of associations for assistance to local victims under agreement, representatives of the bars of the department...

Departmental commissions to combat prostitution, procuring and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation (CDLP)

These commissions are chaired by the Prefect of the department or his representative. They have a role in monitoring, exchanging information and coordinating actions to combat prostitution. They also manage the exit routes from prostitution for adult victims.

It should be stressed, however, that these two bodies are not equally deployed on the national territory.

In concrete terms, when a minor is identified as being in prostitution, two child protection mechanisms can intervene: child welfare (ASE) and justice.

When a minor encounters difficulties (social, family, school, etc.) or when he or she risks being in danger – this is the case with prostitution – it is the ASE that takes protective measures (follow-up by an educator, temporary reception in a family or in a home, etc.).

At this stage, the Ministry of National Education is not really involved in these issues.

Measures against prostitution of minors

EU Policy

At the EU level, the European Commission adopted a comprehensive strategy in July 2020 to combat child sexual abuse – both offline and online. The primary objectives of this strategy are to enhance existing EU measures for safeguarding children from sexual exploitation and to address emerging challenges, particularly in the digital media context. The strategy focuses on verifying compliance with EU regulations, developing sector-specific rules for law enforcement agencies and the private sector for detecting and reporting child sexual abuse on the internet. It centres on establishing an EU centre for preventing and combating child sexual abuse by focusing on transferring knowledge and networking within the EU. It also aims at improving how children are protected against sexual violence through networking different actors in global alliances.

In France

Through various programmes and initiatives, many measures have been taken in France to combat child prostitution and better support young people at risk and victims, such as:

– The first national plan to combat prostitution of minors, with a budget of **€14 million (2021-2022)**. It was based on 4 pillars:

- awareness-raising and information;
- strengthening the identification at all levels of the young people involved;
- support for minors in prostitution;
- strengthening legal action against clients and pimps.

Ministers **announced the main lines of a new plan for 2024-2027**, which will build on the momentum and positive results of the previous 2020-2022 plan, and which is scheduled to be launched in September 2023. Among its priorities can be retained:

- **Training of professionals**, to strengthen their ability to detect and report situations of violence. The protection of children depends on the professionals who work with them.
- **The deployment of large-scale preventive education actions** to raise awareness among adults and children about the various forms of violence, including sexual violence, and the means of dealing with them.
- **Enhanced support for child victims in judicial proceedings**, to enable them to fully understand their rights and the issues at stake in criminal proceedings
- **Simplifying procedures for orphaned minors**, to enable them to remain and be raised in their family environment
- **Special attention to children who are protected, disabled** or living in overseas territories. Child protection must be the same for all.

Responsible agencies/authorities to tackle juvenile prostitution

This new interministerial plan will mark a **new stage in the fight against violence against children**. The Government is committed to building a safer, more caring society that is more respectful of children's rights. It **will mobilize the necessary resources to put an end to violence against children** in connection with all those who are already strongly mobilized: **civil society actors, associations, health, education, justice professionals, as well as parents and families**.

Here are some concrete realisations to fight against juvenile prostitution.

- The creation of the **CIIVISE** (Independent Commission on Incest and Sexual Violence against Children) at the initiative of the President of the Republic. This is a commission of inquiry created in 2021, following the emergence #MeToo incest movement. It aims to "accompany a change in society, to enable the France to commit itself in a determined way to the protection of minors, by establishing a culture of prevention and protection". In June 2023, this commission published an estimate of nearly €10 billion per year for the cost of sexual violence against minors. The bulk of this cost is related to the long-term health consequences of the victims.

- The creation of the **PARÉ project** (Piloting and Animating a Network of Mobilized Actors). This is a project funded by the Directorate General of Social Cohesion and which aims to create an animation of national and local actors of civil society mobilized in the fight against prostitution of minors throughout the French territory.

Through this, the aim is to improve the identification, guidance and support of minors who are victims of prostitution, their relatives and professionals.

This project led to the creation of an online resource centre dedicated to underage prostitution in 2023.

Phone services

- A dedicated platform within the "National Telephone Service for Children at Risk" (119). The service can be reached by minors as well as their families, relatives or child protection professionals to support them in the care of minors.

- The French Federation of Resource Centres for Interveners with Perpetrators of Sexual Violence (FFCRIA VS) has set up the Telephone Service for Guidance and Prevention (S.T.O.P) for people attracted to children to avoid any act.

Websites

- "**Je protège mon enfant**" (*I protect my child*). It is a platform for information, prevention and protection of minors against exposure to pornographic content online. It was created as part of a public/private partnership and is aimed at parents. They can find practical tools, tips and resources.

Communication campaign

Following the report submitted to the Government, a national awareness-raising campaign had been established to prevent the dangers of prostitution of minors. A short video features a young minor victim of prostitution in her daily life that she thinks she has mastered but where she finally loses her footing. This spot was broadcast on television channels throughout the country as well as on video platforms such as YouTube and social networks.

Influencers were associated with the campaign to disseminate other content.

Beyond the measures taken by the government, we can find various public and private structures involved in the fight against prostitution of minors, in particular for preventive actions.



Stakeholders' mapping

• EU & INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Name of service/organisation	Description	Role in preventing and combating prostitution of minors	Role in the provision of support or services to victims	Contact info (Phone, e-mail, website)
EU agencies which signed a joint statement on addressing human trafficking	They have committed to working closely to address human trafficking, according to their areas of competence, which range from gathering intelligence and facilitating prosecution in trafficking cases to coordinating Member States' efforts to support victims and prevent victimisation.			Website: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0607
EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator	EU Anti-trafficking coordinator is responsible for improving coordination and coherence among EU institutions, EU agencies, Member States and international actors.	<u>Responsible for:</u> - Improving coordination among all the anti-trafficking stakeholders - Monitoring the implementation of the EU strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings - Contributing to the reporting carried out by the European Commission every two years on the progress made in the fight against trafficking.		Website: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-anti-trafficking-coordinator_en
ECPAT International	ECPAT is a global network of civil society organisations working together to end the sexual exploitation of children.	ECPAT coordinates research, advocacy and action towards the aim of ending the sexual exploitation of children.		Website: https://ecpat.org/

Responsible agencies/authorities to tackle the prostitution of minors

• FRANCE

This list is not exhaustive and aims at showing the diversity of stakeholders involved in the fight against underage prostitution and actions that are undertaken. There are also other organisations involved in this topic.

Name of service/organisation	Description	Role in preventing and combating prostitution of minors	Role in the provision of support or services to victims	Contact info (Phone, e-mail, website)
Interministerial mission for the protection of women against violence and the fight against trafficking in human beings (MIPROF)	<p>MIPROF, created by decree and placed under the authority of the Minister for Women's Rights, has four main functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national training plan for professionals on violence against women; - Acting as a national observatory on violence against women by collecting, analysing and disseminating information and data on violence against women; - Promoting local coordination of policy to protect women who are victims of violence; - National coordination of the fight against human trafficking. 	<p>MIPROF participates in research work on the theme of prostitution of minors which gave rise to a report in 2021 and whose recommendations were included in the 1st national plan against prostitution of minors. She was also associated with the multidisciplinary action research on the prostitution of minors in France carried out by the Victimology Centre for Minors, submitted to the Government in February 2022.</p> <p>MIPROF develops training tools for all professionals with the help of a college of trainers, academics, teachers, experts and the support of institutional and professional partners.</p>	/	<p>Website: https://arretonsle.sviolences.gouv.fr/je-suis-professionnel/outils-de-formation#:~:text=La%20MIPROF%20(Mission%20interminist%C3%A9rielle%20pour,d'enseignants%2C%20d'expertes</p>
The National Helpline for Children at Risk (SNATED)	<p>This service is accessible 24 hours a day through a national emergency number: 119.</p> <p>This two-mission service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a prevention and protection mission: to receive calls from children in danger or at risk of being so and from anyone confronted with this type of situation, to help detect them and facilitate the protection of minors at risk; • a transmission mission: to transmit worrying information concerning these children to the competent departmental services, namely the units for the collection of information of concern (CRIP). 	<p>Professionals can also contact this service, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide them with support in dealing with situations, expertise and training on prostitution issues; - Support local and regional authorities in their efforts to deal with minors involved in prostitution, encourage inter-departmental and inter-regional collaboration and help steer these working groups. 	<p>It has set up a national listening platform dedicated to minors who are victims of prostitution, reachable 24 hours a day. This platform is aimed at minors, their families, loved ones or their entourage. It is also aimed at any professional in contact with minors in order to support and accompany them in the context of their missions. The objective is to offer listening and legal, psychological and educational support to all those seeking help.</p>	<p>Website: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-anti-trafficking-coordinator-en</p>

Responsible agencies/authorities to tackle the prostitution of minors

Name of service/ organisation	Description	Role in preventing and combating prostitution of minors	Role in the provision of support or services to victims	Contact info (Phone, e-mail, website)
National Observatory for Child Protection (ONPE)	The National Observatory for Child Protection (ONPE) was established in 2004. It aims to "better understand the field of children at risk to better prevent and treat"	The ONPE has published a dossier on the prostitution of minors, organized in 2 parts: - a first part: "understand, see, (be) mobilize". - a second part that responds to the needs expressed by actors confronted with child and adolescent prostitution: "Protecting children and adolescents who are victims of prostitution: mobilizing, preventing and accompanying".		Website: https://onpe.gouv.fr/
ACPE - Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants (Act against child prostitution)	In order to fight against the sexual exploitation of minors, the main mission of the ACPE (Agir contre la prostitution des enfants) is to alert, raise awareness and inform the general public, professionals and institutions about all sexual violence and prostitution phenomena that exist in the world, but more particularly on French territory.	ACPE has published various guides related to underage prostitution for different targets: - professionals to enable them to better understand the phenomenon and adapt their support with a particular focus on how digital tools and the current societal context contribute to changes in prostitution behaviour - the parents and relatives of child victims of prostitution to help them better understand and try to regain power in the face of the situation.		Website: https://www.acpe-asso.org/

Responsible agencies/authorities to tackle the prostitution of minors

Name of service/ organisation	Description	Role in preventing and combating prostitution of minors	Role in the provision of support or services to victims	Contact info (Phone, e-mail, website)
Le Mouvement du Nid	The Mouvement du Nid –is a recognized association of public utility acting in support of prostitutes. Established throughout the France, the Mouvement du Nid is both a grassroots association and a social movement: it calls for a citizen, political and cultural commitment against the prostitution system and all violence against women.	<p>The "Mouvement du Nid" has published a brochure to help adults in contact with young people (teachers, social work staff, etc.) to grasp the contours of the phenomenon, understand its interweaving in all sexist and sexual violence and act quickly with young victims.</p> <p>The Mouvement du Nid also organizes training on the theme of prostitution of minors, intended for professionals in medico-social action and National Education.</p>	/	<p>Website: https://mouvementdunid.org/</p>
Defender of Rights	Appointed by the President of the Republic for a non-renewable six-year term, the Defender of Rights is responsible for defending citizens' rights not only vis-à-vis administrations (so-called ombudsman), but also has special prerogatives in terms of promoting children's rights, combating discrimination, respecting the ethics of security activities and guiding and protecting whistleblowers			<p>Website: https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/fr/a-la-une/2022/02/recherche-pluridisciplinaire-sur-la-prostitution-des-mineurs-en-france</p>

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The fact that prostitution of minors in France is a reality is not denied and more and more actors are taking an interest in it, including the Government, which has already undertaken many actions to combat this phenomenon for many years.

However, since there is no scientific data regularly collected and analysed, it is very difficult to know the extent and realities of the phenomenon. This has a direct impact on its management.

As all stakeholders are convinced that the phenomenon remains underestimated for the time being, efforts must be maintained, especially in the digital age, where it is even more complex to access information.

While the profile of minors in prostitution has been defined by various studies, particular attention must also be paid to young people aged 14 and under, who constitute a significant proportion of the young people concerned by the phenomenon in various studies. Indeed, early prostitution attitudes are increasingly reported in schools from the 5th grade. Prevention can play a decisive role with young people themselves and with those who accompany them in their daily lives: educational community within schools, social workers, youth workers, parents, etc.

Once identified, in order to be solved, the problem of prostitution of minors must be addressed at all levels: prevention, identification of young people at risk or in prostitution, judicial treatment, care and support for victims but also the training of professionals.

To date in France, several services are involved but are not coordinated or represented equitably on the national territory.

According to several recommendations already expressed by working groups, units or services dedicated to this subject could exist in addition, while taking care not to make things more complex to understand.

The priorities must therefore remain:

- Communication to make known and prevent the phenomenon. In order to do so, specific activities should be implemented for all the target groups, including parents who are not often involved though they can play a decisive role.
- Training of professionals who work with young people in prostitution or not
- Coordination of support services

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