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Webcam Child Sex Tourism: An Emerging Global Issue

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Webcam Child Sex Tourism

*Deanna Hudson, Kelly McDonald,
Madison Pross, & Emily Puffer*

Webcam Child Sex Tourism

-
- What is it?
- Supply and Demand
- Global Policy
- What can we do about it?

What is it?

Definition

Webcam Child Sex Tourism (WCST)

The newest form of child exploitation, where adults pay to direct and view live-streaming video footage of children in another country performing sexual acts in front of a webcam.

What is Webcam Child Sex Tourism

-
- **New and largely unknown**
- **Involves children-primarily in the Philippines**
- **Makes it easier for child predators to get away with the acts**
- **Online Campaign/World Tourism Network on Child Protection Meeting**

[1:04 AM] TXguy1975: Hi. Are you really only 10?

[1:05 AM] 10 f Cebu: yes

[1:05 AM] 10 f Cebu: how old r u?

[1:05 AM] TXguy1975: I'm much older... You're too young to be in this chat room

[1:06 AM] TXguy1975: It's not safe

[1:06 AM] 10 f Cebu: its ok 😊

[1:06 AM] TXguy1975: Your parents know you're here?

[1:06 AM] 10 f Cebu: yes!

[1:07 AM] TXguy1975: Okay... Where are you from?

[1:07 AM] 10 f Cebu: Philippines

[1:07 AM] TXguy1975: 😊

[1:07 AM] TXguy1975: I went to Manila once. Lots of cute little girls there. ;)

[1:07 AM] TXguy1975: Are you cute?

[1:08 AM] 10 f Cebu: hihii yes very!

[1:08 AM] TXguy1975: nice

[1:08 AM] TXguy1975: Turn on your cam.

[1:08 AM] TXguy1975: I want to see you

[1:08 AM] 10 f Cebu: here cam no work, u have yahoo?

[1:09 AM] TXguy1975: Yeah. It's c @yahoo.com. Add me now

[1:10 AM] 10 f Cebu: you pay?

[1:10 AM] TXguy1975: Pay? What do you do on camera?

[1:10 AM] 10 f Cebu: what you want

Sample of a conversation that took place on April 8, 2013 between a predator seeking a webcam sex performance from a Terre des Hommes Netherlands researcher posing on a public chat room as a 10-year-old Filipino girl.

Example Chat between perpetrator and child

Why the Philippines?

- “At this point in time, there’s no other country yet. It is purely the Philippines where children are offered for this kind of service.”
- “The Philippines is in the supply side of the problem... But WCST will not be limited to the Philippines... We have to address this source of the problem with international support,”
 - Hans Guijt, head of special projects and campaign of Terre Des Hommes Netherlands

Supply and Demand

Supply and Demand

- **The Scope of WCST**
 - Family-Run WCST Operations
 - WCST “Dens”
 - Individual WCST Operations
- **The Effects of Childhood Sexual Trauma**
 - Terre des Hommes Netherlands Study
 - Traumatic Sexualization, Betrayal, and Powerlessness

(Terre Des Hommes, 2013; American Psychological Association, 2014)

Supply and Demand

- **Global Demand**

- Transient Traveling Sex Offenders (TTSO)
- 750,000 Sex Offenders Connected to the Internet at any given Moment

(Terre Des Hommes, 2013; Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, 2013)

Global Policy

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- Implemented in 1989
- International human rights treaty that grants all children and young people a set of rights
- Obligates governments to take action

Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures **to prevent:**

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

**Optional Protocol to the
Convention on the Rights of the
Child, on the Sale of Children, Child
Prostitution, and Child Pornography
(OPSC)**

OPSC

- **Implemented in 2002**
- **Supplements the UNCRC**
- **Its definition of pornography and prostitution in Article 2 can be applied to Webcam Child Sex**

(United Nation's Children Fund, 2005)

Article 2

For the purposes of the present Protocol:

- (a) Sale of children means any act or transaction whereby a child is transferred by any person or group of persons to another for remuneration or any other consideration;
- (b) Child prostitution means the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration;
- (c) Child pornography means any representation, by whatever means, of a **child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities** or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.

National Criminal Codes

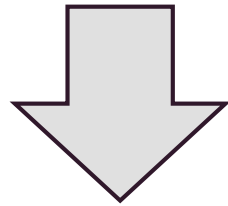
- Philippine's Republic Act No. 10175

“The willful engagement, maintenance, control, or operation, directly or indirectly, of any lascivious exhibition of sexual organs or sexual activity, with the aid of a computer system, for favor or consideration”

(Terre Des Hommes, 2013)

Reactive vs. Proactive Policy

**Current system relies on people to report
acts of Webcam Child Sex**



Perceived low risk

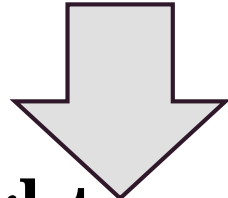
Sting Operations



(Terre Des Hommes, 2013)

Reactive vs. Proactive Policy

Sting operations



Heightened risk

What can we do about it?

An estimated **750,000 pedophiles** are online, but only six men have so far been convicted of paying young people to perform sex acts in front of webcams.

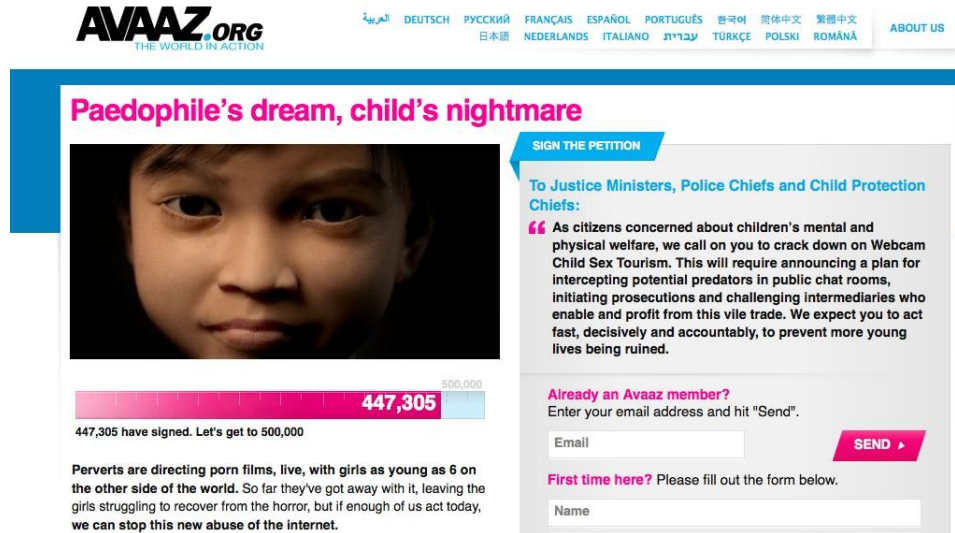
What can we do long term?

- **Raise awareness for others**
- **Encourage others to research and understand the issue**
- **Help to create and implement stronger laws and law enforcement in other countries**
- **Support responsible businesses**
- **Avoid giving money to child beggars**

What can we do right now?

- Sign the online petition

–<http://avaaz.org/en/wcst/>



The screenshot shows the Avaaz.org website interface for a petition. At the top, the Avaaz.org logo is displayed with the tagline 'THE WORLD IN ACTION'. To the right, there is a navigation menu with links for various languages: العربية, DEUTSCH, РУССКИЙ, FRANÇAIS, ESPAÑOL, PORTUGUÊS, 한국어, 繁體中文, 繁體中文, 日本語, NEDERLANDS, ITALIANO, עברית, TÜRKÇE, POLSKI, ROMÂNĂ, and ABOUT US.

The main heading of the petition is 'Paedophile's dream, child's nightmare'. Below the heading is a close-up photograph of a young child's face. To the right of the photo is a 'SIGN THE PETITION' button. Below the photo is a progress bar showing that 447,305 people have signed, with a goal of 500,000. The text below the progress bar reads: '447,305 have signed. Let's get to 500,000'.

Below the progress bar is a paragraph of text: 'Perverts are directing porn films, live, with girls as young as 6 on the other side of the world. So far they've got away with it, leaving the girls struggling to recover from the horror, but if enough of us act today, we can stop this new abuse of the internet.'

To the right of the photo and progress bar is a text box with the following content: 'To Justice Ministers, Police Chiefs and Child Protection Chiefs: As citizens concerned about children's mental and physical welfare, we call on you to crack down on Webcam Child Sex Tourism. This will require announcing a plan for intercepting potential predators in public chat rooms, initiating prosecutions and challenging intermediaries who enable and profit from this vile trade. We expect you to act fast, decisively and accountably, to prevent more young lives being ruined.'

Below the text box is a section for 'Already an Avaaz member?' with a form to enter an email address and a 'SEND' button. Below that is a section for 'First time here?' with a form to enter a name.

SIGN THE PETITION

To Justice Ministers, Police Chiefs and Child Protection Chiefs:

“ As citizens concerned about children’s mental and physical welfare, we call on you to crack down on Webcam Child Sex Tourism. This will require announcing a plan for intercepting potential predators in public chat rooms, initiating prosecutions and challenging intermediaries who enable and profit from this vile trade. We expect you to act fast, decisively and accountably, to prevent more young lives being ruined.

Already an Avaaz member?

Enter your email address and hit "Send".

SEND ▶

First time here? Please fill out the form below.



Questions?

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