Criminal exploitation of children

What is the criminal exploitation of children?

The criminal exploitation of children is a form of human trafficking in which adults force minors to engage in criminal activities. This could take the form of theft, pickpocketing or begging. It is designated as ‘petty crime’ and ‘mobile banditry’.

Victims, not offenders

These minors should be seen as victims, not as offenders. They are vulnerable children whose development is jeopardised through their exploitation.

Comprehensive approach to the criminal exploitation of minors

The criminal exploitation of children is not always recognised. These children are not given the protection they are entitled to. They are often punished and then end up back on the streets or with their exploiter, while the exploiter stays out of the picture. The National Expert Group on Tackling the Criminal Exploitation of Minors aims to change this but cannot succeed alone.

Tackling criminal exploitation has been assigned as a joint task to the Ministries of Justice and Security; Social Affairs and Employment; Public Health and Sport; and Foreign Affairs/Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. It forms part of the comprehensive programme strategy ‘Joint action against Trafficking in Human Beings’.

For more information:
- Dossier mensenhandel: https://wegwijzermensenhandel.nl
- Human trafficking file: https://hetccv.nl/onderwerpen/mensenhandel/

The National Expert Group on Tackling the Criminal Exploitation of Minors encourages care partners to cooperate by involving them directly in the criminal process. It also sets out to raise awareness of criminal exploitation among professionals working in the security and social domain.

The Centre for Crime Prevention and Security facilitates knowledge sharing and knowledge development and provides professionals and administrators in the security and social domain with hands-on support in identifying and tackling human trafficking through various activities.

For more information:
- Dossier mensenhandel: https://wegwijzermensenhandel.nl
- Child Care and Protection Board (Raad voor de Kinderbescherming): https://hetccv.nl/onderwerpen/mensenhandel/

Comensha supports municipalities in creating a nationwide network of care coordinators for human trafficking. An overview of care coordinators is available at:
- https://vng.nl/kwartiermaker-aanpak-mensenhandel

What can you do as a professional?

Learn to recognise the signals

How do you recognise signs of criminal exploitation? The Barrier Model (see reverse side) shows that many different professionals may encounter signals. To learn to actually see them, you can follow training courses and join national peer review meetings.

For more information:
- Dossier mensenhandel: https://wegwijzermensenhandel.nl
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The Association of Netherlands Municipalities has appointed a national project leader to support municipalities in the development and implementation of policy to tackle human trafficking.

For more information:
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The following applies to everyone

Learn to recognise the signals

How do you recognise signs of criminal exploitation? The Barrier Model (see reverse side) shows that many different professionals may encounter signals. To learn to actually see them, you can follow training courses and join national peer review meetings.

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Know what to do if you suspect human trafficking

- Acute threat? Contact the local police on 112 or 0900-8844 and ask for the AVIM (immigration, identification and human trafficking department) or the police human trafficking team.

Employed in the educational or social, judicial or medical domain

- Share your suspicions with the local or regional human trafficking care coordinator.
- If your local authority does not yet have a human trafficking coordinator, please contact the Public Order and Security officer in your municipality.
- If a child protection measure is required, ask to have the measure assigned to the Salvation Army (LJ&R).
- Contact the AVIM or the human trafficking team.
- If your local authority does not yet have a human trafficking coordinator, please contact the Public Order and Security officer in your municipality.
- If a child protection measure is required, ask to have the measure assigned to the Salvation Army (LJ&R).
- Contact the AVIM or the human trafficking team.

Know what to do if you suspect human trafficking

- Acute threat? Contact the local police on 112 or 0900-8844 and ask for the AVIM (immigration, identification and human trafficking department) or the police human trafficking team.

Employed by the local authority

- Contact the dedicated holder or chain director for human trafficking at your local authority. The Public Order and Safety officer at your local authority will be able to help you if it is not clear who the first point of contact is.
- In case of emergency: contact the police human trafficking team.

Employed by police & Public Prosecution Service

- Follow the Oceans protocol (intranet & Kompol).
- Contact the AVIM or the human trafficking team by telephone.
- Contact the police expert on human trafficking and the human trafficking officer for consultation.
- Contact the Child Care and Protection Board.

Employed by the local authority

- Contact the dedicated holder or chain director for human trafficking at your local authority. The Public Order and Safety officer at your local authority will be able to help you if it is not clear who the first point of contact is.
- In case of emergency: contact the police human trafficking team.

1) Fast Track Tables

A working method in which the PPS, the Probation Service and Victim Support cooperate in accelerated (fast track), effective and high-quality approach to settling police reports and arrests in frequently occurring offences such as shoplifting, vandalism and street robbery.
## Signallers — Who picks up the signals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Identity</th>
<th>Offences</th>
<th>Finances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Immigration and Naturalisation Service</td>
<td>• Police (AVIM, district teams)</td>
<td>• Police</td>
<td>• Public Prosecution Service</td>
<td>• Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Police</td>
<td>• Local authority (special investigators, Register of Non-Residents desks, Safe Houses, Youth and Family Centre, GIZ)</td>
<td>• Regional Information and Expertise Centre</td>
<td>• Interpol/Europol (EMPACT)</td>
<td>• Tax department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Royal Netherlands Marechaussee</td>
<td>• Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (CAOA)</td>
<td>• Child Care and Protection Board</td>
<td>• Regional Information and Expertise Centre</td>
<td>• Money transfer offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Customs</td>
<td>• Welg Thijs</td>
<td>• Stichting Leger des Salvation Jeugdbescherming &amp; Reclaiwering</td>
<td>• Fast Track</td>
<td>• Local authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dutch embassies</td>
<td>• Housing corporations/private landlords</td>
<td>• Foundation for the Salvation Army's Child Protection and Probation</td>
<td>• Child Care and Protection Board</td>
<td>• Diplomatic and Consular Representations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interpol/Europol (EMPACT)</td>
<td>• Holiday parks / campsites / hotels</td>
<td>• Crisis Interventions / Youth Protection</td>
<td>• UKR</td>
<td>• Professional bodies and associations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Signals — What are the signals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
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<th>Identity</th>
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<th>Finances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Constantly travels to and stays in various European countries</td>
<td>• Makes unclear or changing statements about the duration of the stay and the place of residence in the Netherlands</td>
<td>• Is presumably underage or pretends to be: claims to be &lt; 12 years (no possible prosecution) or &gt; 18 years of age</td>
<td>• Steals goods not appropriate to his/her age or situation</td>
<td>• Is forced to &quot;earn&quot; a minimum daily amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Has applied for asylum in several European countries (bypassing using Dublin clause)</td>
<td>• Is unfamiliar with the location/address of his/her place of residence</td>
<td>• Is a minor with no (clear) legal guardian</td>
<td>• No or doubtful statement concerning asylum</td>
<td>• Has to hand over a disproportionate proportion of illegal earnings (to a man, often a husband or father)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Has not arranged the transport and has/his travel and identity documents himself/herself</td>
<td>• Does not have a temporary or permanent place of residence or an address known in the country of origin</td>
<td>• Explains indistinctly or changeably about his/her identity</td>
<td>• Operates together with adults and/or minors, in ever-changing compositions</td>
<td>• Misuses social services/commits fraud with government benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is unfamiliar with the itinerary and/or destination</td>
<td>• Supposedly stays with family members in the Netherlands (parents in the source country), but is untraceable or unable to give an address</td>
<td>• Is forced together with adults and/or minors</td>
<td>• Has a &quot;work phone&quot; with only a few numbers, stored under nickname / alias</td>
<td>• Deposits illegal earnings via Western Union to client (in source country)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is single, travels without actual parents / guardians</td>
<td>• Staying with a large family, where it is unclear whether all children really belong to the family</td>
<td>• Is a minor in unregistered mutual (family) relationships</td>
<td>• Has been detained several times for property crimes, also in other European countries</td>
<td>• Sells illegally acquired goods to pawnshops / jewelers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Travelling with a large family, where it is unclear whether all children really belong to the family</td>
<td>• Does not have access to his/her own living space and/or moves within a short period of time</td>
<td>• Explains indistinctly or changeably about his/her place of residence in the Netherlands</td>
<td>• Commits &quot;voluntary&quot; offences, also in case of illness and/or pregnancy</td>
<td>• Has assets/capital in other (European) countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Travelling with a large family, where it is unclear whether all children really belong to the family</td>
<td>• Removes life and/or travel and identity documents</td>
<td>• Has not arranged the transport and has/his travel and identity documents himself/herself</td>
<td>• Is instructed by others at or around the crime scene</td>
<td>• Sells illegally acquired goods to pawnshops / jewelers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Travelling with a large family, where it is unclear whether all children really belong to the family</td>
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## Barriers — What can we do?

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<th>Finances</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reduce the age limit for fingerprinting (14 years)</td>
<td>• Outreach work by welfare organisations in response to requests for assistance from the target group</td>
<td>• Registration and verification of supposed legal guardians</td>
<td>• Information campaign modus operandi for signallers</td>
<td>• Hold (supposed) legal guardians responsible for damages as a result of theft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• When entering the country with minors, obligation to provide proof of legal custody or the consent of the parents with custody</td>
<td>• Housing inspection by the local authority in the event of nuisance reports regarding the target group</td>
<td>• Identity analysis using international pickpocket lists</td>
<td>• Confiscation and reading out mobile phones</td>
<td>• Add search terms to Financial Investigation Unit query MH in relation to unusual and suspicious transactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Intelligence gathering on place of residence via social media (international)</td>
<td>• Official report of school attendance officer (full attendance)</td>
<td>• Contact with Welg Thijs: insight into the agencies already involved</td>
<td>• Investigation into benefit fraud in the target group that comes into the picture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Advies Landelijk Knopenpunt Huwelijksadvies en Achterkanting (National centre for advice on forced marriages and abandonment)</td>
<td>• International target group analysis by Europol / EMM</td>
<td>• Additional enforcement of purchase register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• National analysis of children registered in the personal records database for children without parents with parental authority</td>
<td>• Board inquiry (Child Care and Protection Board)</td>
<td>• Intelligence gathering on finances via social media (international)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• National analysis of children registered in the personal records database for children without parents with parental authority</td>
<td>• Impostion of (provisional) family supervision order and/or (provisional) guardianship, connected to a ban on leaving the country and/or authorisation for placement in care.</td>
<td>• Temporary placement in a closed care institution with a Child-specific care programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• National analysis of children registered in the personal records database for children without parents with parental authority</td>
<td>• Strict supervision of minors in the provision of medical assistance in connection with escape</td>
<td>• International criminal investigation into human trafficking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>