

THE CORE MANUAL. PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

part I

How to understand

**ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA
DE APOIO À VÍTIMA (APAV)**

**THE CORE PROJECT
CHILDREN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



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We would like to show you all our most profound thankfulness
and wish you to carry on doing a good work.

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The extent of the aspects, which would have to be covered, not to mention the deepening complexity of some of those aspects, haven't allowed us to build up a substantially detailed Manual, once the underlying idea was for it to be a small sized and practical working tool.

It is not intended as an intervening methodology or programme, for had that been the underlying intention and a scientific approach should have been carried out from a scientific project to ample ground experimentation. This would also mean that its starting point should have been a theoretical paradigm, which would have had to be later proved on the ground. This Manual has not followed either of these, nor was it expected to.

In spite of not being a scientific work, nor a presentation of results of a scientific programme to be used as working ground to deal with children, it is a brief, yet valid amount of agreed upon procedures, regarding the practical daily experience of those working with children victims of violence, as well as with their family members and friends. It has an essentially theoretic-practical approach and has been built up from the continuous development carried out in the last years by Associação de Apoio à Vítima, in permanent reflection with other Organizations dedicated to the assistance and support of victimized children.

The Core Project – Children Victims of Sexual Violence, mirrors that concern. It was presented at the European Commission STOP II Programme, in co-partnership with the Instituto Superior de Polícia Judiciária e Ciências Criminais (INPJCC) and the CEBI Foundation of Alverca, at national level, as well as in co-operation with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to children (NSPCC) in England, the Defence for Children International with its Headquarters in

should have during the direct assistance/interviewing, assistance provided by phone and or in written terms and the degree of confidentiality, which should be maintained ,etc. This part has got to do with the intervention, which is above all a three phase intervention – that is to say that whenever a child has been or is being victimized, it may be necessary to provide him/her with immediate protection and the adequate support, mainly in what concerns the psychological, juridical and social aspects.

By reading and later carrying out some of the CORE Manual proposed procedures, each professional might come across a number of challenges associated with his/her own on "how to understand" or on " how to act" provided daily assistance and support to the victimized children and their parents, family members and/or friends. The professional is expected to then ponder on each of the involving aspects, in particular with other professionals and subsequently look for answers in other manuals, books and working studies. This Manual isn't but a solid beginning to encourage one to further develop his/her knowledge on these complex issues, along with one's ameliorated daily supporting practice.

One of the CORE Manual's challenges is the fact that each piece of information conveyed in it, needs to be adapted by the professional to the characteristics of his/her own country, particularly in what concerns the judicial system in force and the already existing support services, apart from the singularity of the life each victim is/ has been running. The professional should therefore take advantage of his/her own sensibility, in order to carry out what has been recommended in procedural terms and have the capability to intelligently adapt these procedures to the circumstances and requests inherent to the reality of his/her own country.

Sexual violence against children implies a contact and interaction between an adult and a minor, being this latest referred to as the victim and the former one as the criminal and/or aggressor.

This contact and interaction may sporadically occur or happen over a long period of time. The intention behind these acts is to stimulate and sexually satisfy the adults involved, resulting in a number of damaging consequences as far as the children are concerned, particularly in psychological, physical and psychosomatic terms.

Sexual violence exerted against children implies the perpetration of one or more crimes against those children, which may range from sexual abuse of minors to pimping, rape and trafficking of persons for sexual exploration purposes among others.

Committing these crimes leads to the emerging of specific complex phenomena, which have been devastating many countries and which have reached a significant social relevance: the trafficking of children for sexual exploration purposes; the production and dissemination of pornographic material involving children; sexual tourism of child aggressors; child prostitution and incestuous sexual abuse.

2.1 What is paedophilia?

PSYCHIATRIC CONCEPT

Paedophilia is a concept, which in psychiatric terms is defined as a disturbance pertaining to the group of paraphilias. It implies a mental disturbance of the person. The criteria² used for diagnosing it are:

¹ The existence of imaginary fantasies, which are sexually arousing, sexual impulses and/or any other behavioural attitudes, which occur in a repetitive and intense way, over a period of at least six consecutive months and which imply fantasizing about the sexual participation of children;

Although not correctly used, as far as the real essence of the problem is concerned, the way these terms are being used may not be exactly incorrect. That is to say that: most people when referring to any type of sexual violence against children, simply use the terms "paedophilia" or "paedophile" to label any sexual action and/or behavioural attitude carried out by an adult against a child, though the "essence" of what they really want to specify is slightly different from this, meaning that child molesters may not necessarily be paedophiles or psychiatric disturbed individuals. If we take into account the way in which these terms are used as common sense adopted terms, it may not be entirely inadequate, once they refer to repulsive, socially unacceptable and criminal actions.

The use of these terms should be accepted, not only because the fact that they are being referred to, makes people aware of the seriousness of this social issue, in terms of the various ways in which sexual violence against children is perpetrated, but also because society has adapted the use of these terms by turning it into a socially accepted and wider conceptualised concept than the one it should be used in.

Whenever possible or thought convenient one should make the most of the opportunity – a mediating or private discussion on the issue – to clarify its psychiatric concept, that is, to further clear up that this is quite a restricted concept, which may be applied to some of the children molesters, yet not to all of them. One should also make others aware of the diversity of the ways in which sexual violence is exerted, such as the sexual abuse within the family structure, trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes, etc.

3| IN WHICH CONTEXTS SEXUAL VIOLENCE MAY OCCUR

Sexual violence may occur in many different contexts, though primarily:

3.1 Sexual violence may be related to domestic violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sexual violence against children may be closely related to a much more complex issue – domestic violence. That is to say that, sexual crimes against a particular child may be committed as part of a group of other related domestic violence crimes.

Apart from the sexual abuse, those children may also suffer from maltreatment and negligence, which may be inflicted by one or more than one aggressor, not to mention the fact that the children may be witnessing other victimizing situations involving other members of their family group, such as their mothers, brothers, sisters, grandparents, etc.

Some professionals involved in the assistance and support of women victims of domestic violence, eventually come across situations in which the children of those women victims are victims themselves, namely in what concerns sexual violence.

Under these circumstances, the acknowledging and understanding of the problem involving those particular children should not be dissociated from the global problem, which has to do with the problematic issues concerning their families. The supporting processes should therefore be the ones used for their mothers. This means that any decision taking aiming at solving the problem of those women should include the resolution thought convenient for the children as well, and seen under a correlated perspective³.

4| MYTHS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

There is a distorted idea on what sexual violence against children is, namely because of various inaccurate and vague ideas, common sense has accepted as portraying reality. Most of those wrongly adopted concepts have been conveyed by the Media and/or the personal acknowledgement of some cases.

5 "Whenever a child is victimized, his/her parents or somebody else will be told". Children may keep the information secret for a long time and sometimes forever. Shame, sense of guilt, fear and other feelings, which are commonly felt by victims of crime, may become an impediment to ask someone for help. The strategies used by the molesters⁴ don't help either – they encourage the victims' silence.

6 "Some children are seductive and sexually provocative". Some children are rather expressive, communicative and attractive, as far as their behavioural attitudes are concerned. These characteristics should not be used as a justification for the adult to say he is being sexually aroused. If a child sits on an old person's lap, it doesn't mean that the child wishes to be sexually aroused or vice-versa, it may simply mean that the child trusts that person and would like to have his affection, to have him play with him/her and for them both to just have some fun;

7 "Some children enjoy it, they are the ones who ask for it". Although children may feel some pleasure in getting involved with adults, as an integrating part of their own sexuality, they are not prepared to have sexual intercourse with them. Adults are more developed in physical and psychological terms, being therefore stronger and much more experienced than children. Should there be any involvement, the adults involved should be the ones to take the blame and be held responsible for the situation, even if the child has clearly shown or asked to have sexual intercourse with them. This particular situation may occur when a child has been previously subject to a victimizing situation, having subsequently learned the seductive steps used by the adult then and following/copying them later; If a pre-adolescent or adolescent seduces an adult with a clearly expressed sexual intent and this ends up in a physical involvement

10 "The molester is always a stranger with a rather questionable aspect, wearing a gabardine and standing at a street corner". The molester cannot be identified by his appearance nor judged by his social behaviour. He may, in fact, have a completely different aspect from the one referred above – he may have an elegant way of dressing and a subtle way of looking and/or acting⁵;

11 "If this happened to any of my children I would immediately know of it". Although most people feel that they are in absolute control of all the events involving their family members, particularly in what concerns the safety of their children, they don't always notice what happened or might have been happening in regard to sexual violence, once it is a reality both molesters and victims tend to disguise, being these molesters the greatest number of times people the parents and relatives of the abused children have always considered trustworthy;

12 "The victim is always an angel face and feminine good- looking child" The child subject to sexual abuse may have all kinds of looks. Nothing will stop a molester from getting close to a child he wants to get close to, even if the looks of the child do not correspond to the one he had in mind. Apart from that, it should be made known that some molesters prefer children with a vulgar and sometimes even dirty aspect – very far from the feminine and angelic image suggested by the child's beauty prototype - a boy with long blond hair and blue eyes;

13 "The molester is a mentally ill patient". In most situations, the molester is not a psychiatric disturbed person but rather a healthy looking one with no moral scruples, as far as children are concerned. Because of being aware and absolutely conscious of what he was up to, he should not be legally exempt of having victimized a child;

always be considered a rather serious matter, as well as a social problematic issue. It should be regarded as a real attempt against human dignity and a national health problem. Although the family of a victimized child feel ashamed of what has happened, amongst other difficult feelings they will have to handle, their child and his/her welfare should be what they have to feel more concerned about. This undoubtedly implies the help of specialized professional members, as well as denouncing the aggressor, so that he may be taken to Court and punished, not to mention deterring him from repeating the crimes;

18 "It is only vaginal and anal penetration". The molester has in fact a wide variety of criminal practices he may carry out, which do not include any form of penetration: oral sex, sexually arousing caresses, masturbation, exhibiting the sex, etc –may be some of these. He may still take photographs or have home films made, in which the nudity of the children or sexual acts involving children are shown;

19 "The child will be nullified forever". Although sexual violence against children is a very serious matter and has been devastating many children victims and consequently their families, it is not a determining problem. That is to say, that the victimized child may still lead a normal and tranquil future life. This will very much depend on the factors associated with the variety of cases, which are all different, as far as the following aspects are concerned: the seriousness and the duration of the victimization; the degree of involvement and relationship between the victim and the offender prior to the aggression; what the victim had to go through; the degree of confidentiality maintained; the family and professional support the victim was provided; the punishment the aggressor was subject to, etc. One should add to these several other common factors the child will have to go through

2 | HOW THE CHILDREN VICTIMS REACT AGAINST PERPETRATED ACTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

DEFINITION

Children may react against sexual violence in various ways, depending on the type of perpetrated violence, the nature of the aggressors, the relationship those children had or had been having with the molesters, the duration and the regularity of those violent episodes, etc. Each victim is singular in his/her own reaction because of their unique personality and the variety of reactions associated with it.

CHARACTERISTICS

Some general characteristics may be pointed out:

1 Acting passively. Some children adopt a passive type of attitude, sometimes even insensible, regarding the acts perpetrated by the molester. They don't scream, nor try to run away from the aggressor or even avoid the aggression. This does not necessarily mean that they are responsible for or consent to what is happening to them. This type of attitude may be a defensive and protective strategy put into action by the victim, so as to avoid the use of further physical aggression. It has got nothing to do with being passive or consenting to the perpetrated sexual violence, but with the fear of being subject to further aggression or even running the risk of being killed, not to mention the feelings of shame, as well as having the situation unveiled.

2 Being aggressive. Some children may, on the other hand, react aggressively towards the molester, by screaming and attempting to hit him. These reactions may be quite frequent during the first episodes of the aggression, with a tendency to diminish given time, due to the physical and psychological superiority of the aggressor.

medical/legal exams have to be carried out within forty eight hours, the sperm evidence or the search for the evidence of any other vestiges may be difficult.

2 Children feel ashamed and guilty of having had an involvement with the molester, not to mention a certain sense of under obligation commitment they may have towards him, this being the reason why they don't tell anyone what has been happening.

3 Children may fear being punished by their parents or anyone, who may find out about it, not to mention the fear of any reprisals on the part of the molester should he find that out as well. They may fear not being given credit; being rejected by other children for being "different"; separated from their parents or causing their parents' separation (in case the molester happens to be any of the parental figures), etc. They may also be afraid of losing some of the compensating gifts given to them by the molesters (for instance: sweets, money, toys, etc)

4 Children may consider it "normal" to have a relationship with the molesters, in as much as misinterpreting the affectionate acts perpetrated by them as normal types of relationships; they may also feel dependent on the type of "special" relationship they are having with an adult, particularly if it compensates for their lack of affection (children, who feel they are not loved by their parents and/or relatives);

Nevertheless, there are certain evidential signs, which may be identifiable or denote that a particular child may be or has been subject to sexual abuse. Some of those signs are clearly identified by doctors, nurses and/or professionals working with health matters. Some other signs may not be so easily related to sexual violence, as they could also be imputed to other very distinct problems.

- 10 recurring urinary infections;
- 11 sexually transmissible diseases (gonorrhoea, syphilis, AIDS, trichomoniasis, etc.),
- 12 sperm vestiges on the children's body and/or their clothes;
- 13 blood vestiges on the children's body and/or their clothes;
- 14 vestiges of strange substances, such as lubricators on the children's body and/or their clothes;
- 15 pregnancy;

As far as symptoms¹³ are concerned, one should point out at least two: pain on the vaginal and/or anal areas; vulvar pruritus.

SYMPTOMS

One should still consider the following aspects, whenever smaller children are concerned:

- 1 functional disturbances: in terms of appetite, causing bulimia and anorexia; in terms of sleeping habits: causing nightmares and sleepless nights; in terms of sphincter control: faeces and urine incontinence; as well as unexplainable and recurring abdominal pain;
- 2 an exaggerated obedient attitude towards the adults and an extreme preoccupation to please them;
- 3 an unsatisfactory relationship with other children;
- 4 increasingly sexual oriented behavioural attitudes of children regarding other children and adults. Attitudes showing an increasing interest and knowledge, which are apparently inappropriate for the children's age, such as the use of

subject to emotional violence. Any child who is subject to sexual violence, is also subject to an emotional one – not only because he or she may have already been subject to it, therefore having become an easier target for the molester (as a potential victim), but also because emotional violence may turn out to be one of the strategic weapons the molester may use to effectively carry out his intentions.

EVIDENTIAL SIGNS

One should point out the following signs¹⁴:

- 1 unsatisfactory non-organic development;
- 2 infections, asthma, skin diseases, allergies; self-mutilation.

SYMPTOMS

As far as symptoms are concerned, there may be several, depending on the age of the children:

- 1 functional disturbances: in terms of appetite – causing bulimia and anorexia; in terms of sleeping habits – causing nightmares, talking out loud during the sleep, sleeping in the foetal position; in terms of sphincter control – enuresis and encompresis (incontinence of the urine and of the faeces); in terms of talking – stuttering problems; dizziness; headaches; muscular and abdominal pain without any apparent organic cause; interrupted menstruation (in adolescents);
- 2 cognitive disturbances: a laid- back language development; difficulty to remember the emotionally violent situations they have been subject to; decrease of their self-esteem and increase of their feelings of inferiority; concentration, attention and memory disturbances, as well as learning difficulties;
- 3 affection disturbances: uncontrollable crying, feelings of shame and guilt; factual and undetermined fears; shyness; inadequacy as far as maturity is concerned (either too

having personality alterations and/or psychosis; regressing as far as accepted behavioural attitudes are concerned (such as sucking their thumbs again or reverting back to a childish type of language, etc).

4| CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE LIFE OF THESE CHILDREN

CONSEQUENCES

The sexual victimization of children will undoubtedly bring about negative consequences for their day-to-day life, not to mention their future life, and sometimes their entire life. They may not be determinant in the process of their happiness and personal fulfilment, which is to say that they may not mercilessly interfere with them.

These may depend on the seriousness of some of the victimization related aspects, those children have endured, such as:

1 Not having told anyone what happened. Because of being afraid or feeling ashamed and guilty of what has happened, children may never tell anyone what they have endured or have been enduring. They may end up carrying these secrets with them, which may be difficult for them to handle on their own and psychologically speaking;

2 The time it has taken them to tell someone what happened. Children may end up telling someone what happened, asking for help and even denouncing the molester, but they may take too long to do it.

3 The reaction of the person, whose help was requested. The reaction of the one, whose help has been requested is very important, once the children may feel rather confused and insecure, apart from fearing being further punished or subject to reprisals. If that person doesn't believe them or accuses them of being liars or wanting to retaliate against the

Children may deter themselves in face of the ambiguity of their relationship with the molester – the natural affection they have for them, on the one hand, and the betrayal and confusion deriving from the exerted violence, on the other. Apart from these aspects, an unacquainted molester is not, nor will easily take part in the day-to-day life of the children, whilst a well known/acquainted person or a family member, who may have been the molester, will easily interfere in their daily life, because of being related to the children or their family. An unknown/unacquainted molester, who may not have been located or even been identified, may represent a recurring fear, particularly if the children are not capable of identifying his facial features.

6 The duration and intensity of the endured violence. These may be particularly important. The longer and more intense the exerted violence against these children was, the greater the psychological/ physical consequences will be, as well as the recovering prospects;

7 The fear, threat, blackmail and/or chasing after, which may follow the acknowledging of the supporting request. The fear plus the added threats, blackmailing and/or chasing after situations, are relevant, not only because they normally occur after the molester has acknowledged the fact that the child has unveiled the situation and requested support, but particularly when the molester and victim are family related, as the child may become an inevitable prey, without a way out.

8 The quality of the specialized provided support. This can be quite an important aspect, because it may facilitate the recovery. With the support specialized professionals involved in the recovery process, children may overcome their problems in a much more assuring way;

emotional fragility will then be inevitable and the negative consequences of the victimization they have undergone may consequently become unsurpassed;

3 Their professional fulfilment. Having professional satisfaction and fulfilment in their adult life, may be important because of them being contributory factors towards their self- esteem and emotional balance. If victims succeed in their professional life, they may add a positive perspective to their life in general, and consequently be able to reduce and/or eliminate the negative consequences of the undergone victimization;

4 The quality of life they have in the future. Their whole future life will be important for the victims. Having a quality-oriented life will allow them to lead a tranquil life without too many emotional unbalances. Being able to overcome the negative consequences of victimization will be difficult though, if they end up leading an existence filled up with all sorts of adversities (within the family, economically, socially, professionally, etc.)

3 The ordinary appearance. Being male or female, they may either be young, middle aged or even old; they may be fat, thin, short or tall; they may have a dark and/or light complexion and have dark or light coloured hair; they may have a good appearance or a neglected one; they may be frightful in their approach or express themselves in a tender and trustful way;

4 The ordinary human beliefs. They may have no specific political oriented beliefs, belonging to no particular political party, being simple followers, supporters and/or eventually, notorious politicians. They may have different religious beliefs or be agnostic or atheist; attend the services of any Church or belong to no particular religious groups;

5 The range of socio-professional and academic backgrounds. They may belong to any social group, from being very poor to particularly wealthy; they may have a wide variety of professions, such as masons, farmers, doctors, fishermen, postmen, bank clerks, soldiers, etc and/or eventually be unemployed. As far as academic backgrounds are concerned, they may either lack rudimentary instruction, being unable to read and write or hold a university degree, between bachelors and doctors or even be quite reputed people intellectually speaking;

6 Common personality traits. Most child sexual molesters have some common personality traits, such as being emotionally immature; having a low self-esteem; being unable to face frustration; being impulsive and easily lacking self-control; having difficulty in relating to others; having been subject to physical and psychological aggressions or even to sexual abuse in their infancy. These traits should not be determinant, once not all individuals with these personality traits have become sexual molesters;

4 Recompensing and/or rewarding them. It may be easy for molesters to manipulate children, by giving them presents in exchange for their passivity and ulterior silence. These may range from sweets, ice creams and toys to expensive electronic games and even money. The molester may reward or recompense the children before the sexual acts or after having perpetrated them. If the children were not previously promised anything, they will consider that every time they meet the molester they will be offered something as a reward;

5 Threatening to punish them. By threatening to severely punish them, in case they do not do what they want them to do, the molesters may be able to easily manipulate these children. The alleged punishments may address the children themselves or contain an indirect reference to their relatives. The molesters may threaten to hit them, not allow them to eat, have them locked home, not let them play with their friends, etc.; they may still threaten to do worse to their sister and/or mother; kill their father, have their mother sacked or their grandmother taken away, in case they do not collaborate.

6 Having the children feel mixed up. The molesters can easily take advantage of the children's uncertainty about situations they themselves have created. They may interweave natural affectionate gestures and touching caresses with sexually arousing caresses, so that children may end up getting mixed up as to the meaning of it all. They may, for instance start rubbing their backs and or back of their heads going downwards to the legs and genitals and soon reverting back to the initially touched areas.

7 Having unexpected attitudes. The molesters may strategically improvise unexpected attitudes, which may lead the children to being /getting into their hands, such as getting into their beds during the night and telling them not to make any noise

from the daily life they lead close to their family and friends, etc., and take them or have them taken to other countries, hiding them in secluded places, where they will not be subject to police investigation and can be victimized at their own discretion;

12 Secluding them and having them submit to slavery. The molesters may keep the children under seclusion, not to let them get out of their control and have them denounced for their action. By having them locked up and under surveillance they may keep them imprisoned until they reach the majority, having them sometimes forced to be addict to drugs and consequently dependent on them exclusively to satisfy their addiction, not to mention have them become their slaves.

2 an artificial recurrence. The material may still work as an artificial extension of the recently perpetrated sexual abuse, which they may have photographed or filmed to use as pornographic material at a later stage. This may then turn into a recurrence of the effectively carried out abuse, which they may keep with them, exchange or even sell to other pornographic consumers.

3 a stimulant for their fantasy. The child pornographic material may stimulate the fantasy that children love sex and need an experienced adult to arouse them to do it; this leads to a distorted concept of "child sexuality", once it starts being understood as the need to "have sexual intercourse with";

4 validation. Consuming this material may be an attempt to justify to themselves that it is natural to have sexual intercourse with children, and by doing so, to validate their likings and inclinations, which they know not to be socially accepted and disapproved of and penalized by Law.

5 a business. Child pornographic material may be produced in order to be later commercialised, focussing on the filming of some scenarios, which ultimately satisfy the likings of a certain group of child molesters. These may be exclusively used by the owner of the material, or further commercialised, by having it sold to other pornographic consumers. The produced material generally reflects the specific tendencies and experiences the child molesters have had throughout their lives. There is a natural tendency to keep on buying or exchanging pornographic material, so as to increase the total number of secret filming assets. This tendency promotes the existence of complicities and organized networking systems carried out by those molesters, who continually copy the launched pornographic material.

In their eyes, these children will never become adults, or be deceased, being the simple image, as well as the underlying fantasy it suggests, what carries them away and really matters to them.

There are also pseudo-photographs, which are constructed by distorting the original picture and changing the picture of an adult into a picture of a child, by cutting and/or pasting faces of children onto bodies of adults. The picture superposing, the under sizing of parts of the visualised body, the removal of pubic hair on a particular picture or the altering in clothing or accessories so as to create a different picture depend on the technology used, which may be quite sophisticated aiming at the ultimate sexual satisfaction and desires of the child molesters. In many cases no child has been victim of any committed crimes. His/her picture has been taken in a completely different context and later used for a specified purpose.

Not every sexual molester has the habit of taking pictures of the victims and /or keeping the obtained pornographic material, but the many, who do so, tend to do it as a remembrance of something, which proved to be very important in their lives – the result of their effort, the time and money involved in it all, even though they don't take advantage of the situation to obtain any financial profit;

3 specific pornographic films. The film-making is quite similar to the taking of pictures, which normally occur during the filming itself. Because of the movement, they convey a livelier type of action. The sequence of the scenes may support a shortened "argument", which normally conform to an historical logic. These only aim at ornamenting the sexual scenarios, which are the real essence of the film; sometimes at displaying some very specific fantasies the pornographic consumers may have – for instance, have the filming take place in a Clinic, where the "doctors" abuse their

¹ the act of collecting. The molesters have a tendency to collect child pornographic material. Their collections increase year after year, as their yearning to accumulate new pictures for their own sexual satisfaction, as well as the search for new fantasies and characters to be included in them, increases. There is also a tendency for them not to destroy the old material.

The molesters also tend to thoroughly organize their files under specific themes, which is greatly helped by using the computer in order to have the whole documentation stored and filed. Each collection, particularly the one, which comprises photographs, can in some cases reach a high number of items – an average of one hundred to one thousand items;

² the act of sharing the collected material. The molesters also seem to have a tendency to share with other molesters all they might have gathered in their files, even if their intention is not to commercialise it. This being the reason why many child molesters are in contact with other molesters and producers of child pornography, through their network of contacts.

Using the computer makes life easier for the child molesters, not only in terms of being able to store their collections of photographs and films, but also because it allows them to be in touch with other molesters anywhere in the world so as to exchange pornographic material and get to know of other pornographic information they may be interested in, such as sites they may visit, geographical maps containing information on child prostitution and sexual trafficking of children.

These contacts may also be made available in specialized magazines, which circulate within the very strict world of the sexual molesters, though the electronic "Bulletin Boards" facilitate contacts with other molesters throughout the world. These may convey information regarding the age of children, the ethnic groups they belong to, their physical and sexual

particular appetizing pieces of child pornography are sometimes commercialised. Even if the production of these didn't aim at sexually satisfying the child molesters, it would end up being used for that purpose, once it has an erotic element in it, which, in turn, projects their fantasies.

2 | CHILD TRAFFICKING. THE CHILD MOLESTERS AS MEMBERS, ORGANIZERS AND CLIENTS OF THE CHILD TRAFFICKING NETWORKS.

2.1 What is the child trafficking used for sexual exploitation purposes.

DEFINITION

The child trafficking used for sexual exploitation purposes is an organized criminal activity, which aims at taking/having children taken away from their living milieus to be moved by force to other geographical areas, having been kidnapped, secluded, sold and bought, so as to be victimized by child molesters and used, namely in child prostitution and/or for the production of child pornographic material.

2.2 General characteristics concerning the trafficking networks

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The child trafficking used for sexual exploitation purposes may be associated to the following characteristics, among others:

¹ International interchange ability. Some child molesters frequently travel from country to country, especially to geographical areas, where they easily have access to children, who are poor, don't attend school, go around begging and belong to a rather fragile social fringe, which exposes them to prostitution with tourists, in order to survive economically. The existence of such networks sometimes encourages them to stay for longer periods than the ones they would stay for, if they were merely on vacation;

3 | CHILD ORIENTED SEXUAL TOURISM. THE TOURIST MOLESTERS.

3.1 - What is the child oriented sexual tourism?

DEFINITION

Child oriented sexual tourism is a criminal activity, which aims at promoting sexual encounters/ intercourse with children, by having the adults go on vacation within or outside their own native countries, with previously panned child oriented sexual tourist destinations and in accordance with their sexual preferences.

3.2 Main characteristics of the child oriented sexual tourism.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Child oriented sexual tourism may have the following characteristics, among others:

1 International interchange ability. Some child molesters frequently travel from country to country, especially to geographical regions, whose economic, social and political situation may encourage the access to children, such as poor areas in which children don't often attend school or are frequently out begging and whose social situation may easily lead them into getting sexually involved with tourists in order to increase their economic situation as well. The existence of such child oriented sexual tourist networks encourages some of the molesters to actually stay longer than the initially anticipated period of time;

2 The economic situation. The child oriented sexual tourism is characterized by being greatly promoted by child molesters coming from developed countries, holding a stronger financial economy than the countries and/or regions of their sexual "tourist" destinations. The victims may be socially unprotected children, sometimes orphans and/or living in very precarious family households, to whom the child molesters may easily have access to, by baiting them with presents and money. Some of these children, particularly the

who stimulate the curiosity of their members, by sharing with them the pornographic material obtained during their trips, as well as any relevant information on places, like beaches, bars, discos, hotels, groups and people they should get in touch with, etc. This information includes small travelling Agencies, which specialize in organizing child oriented sexual tourist trips. Child molesters may or may not take advantage of these existing agencies or any other well-known ones to carry out their objectives;

6 The anonymity and impunity. Some molesters go on vacation to countries and regions, in which they will be anonymous and where they know there is no control on the part of the Authorities, regarding child prostitution. Once they have satisfied their sexual desires, they go back to their native countries knowing well ahead that they will not be easily identified and therefore liable of being considered responsible for their action.

4| CHILD PROSTITUTION. THE CHILD MOLESTER WHILST PROSTITUTION ENCOURAGER AND CLIENT

4.1 What is child prostitution?

DEFINITION

Child prostitution is a criminal activity, which aims at selling and buying sexual services carried out by children, either working on their own or under the control and surveillance of a pimp. It could be an isolated act or a recurring one, which may take place in a brothel, at a private home and/or out in the street.

4.2 General characteristics of child prostitution

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Child prostitution may depend on the following aspects, among others:

1 The poverty of the victims. In many countries where the social and political situation is rather fragile, the situation of these particular children tends to become fragile as well,

3 The existence of pimps and their motivational intents. As far as child prostitution is concerned, the pimps' motivation is similar to any other type of prostitution activities, getting financial profit. In the hands of these child molesters, children turn into a financially profitable means;

4 The child trafficking. Some child molesters get into the trafficking of children from country to country or to different regions, so as to easily force them to prostitute themselves;

5 The seclusion and slavery. Other child molesters take these children to other countries and either submit them to sexual violence perpetrated by other molesters or have them prostitute themselves and subject to slavery, not to mention the fact that they sometimes even get money out of selling them.

5 | THE INCESTUOUS SEXUAL ABUSE. THE FAMILY MEMBER WHILST CHILD ABUSER.

5.1 What is the incestuous sexual abuse?

DEFINITION

The incestuous sexual abuse involving children is a criminal activity, which aims at having a sexual oriented type of relationship with children belonging to one's family, whether they may be one's direct family members or not (ascending, descending or collateral). This type of relationship may include sporadic or recurrent contacts and/or interactions over a long period of time.

5.2 General aspects associated with the incestuous sexual abuse

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The incestuous sexual abuse may comprise to the following characteristics:

1 The degree of kinship and the type of family relationship. The abusers sexually abuse children, whom they are related to biologically or not and whom they have a relationship with, which within the family circle seems liable enough to disguise the approach;

of the family. Taking advantage of the fear of the impending threat, maltreatment and injuries, they may then easily abuse the children (for example, a father, who maltreats his wife and children may quite easily abuse them sexually, etc.);

7 A repetition in the lineage. The abusers may exert sexual violence on their own offspring of either gender (for instance, abusing their older female children and the ones after, who may be boys), or they may start on the older ones and carry on abusing them until they have reached a certain age, to then start abusing the ones, who come after and so forth. They may still abuse them separately or over the same period of time, by inter-spacing the sequence of the perpetrated abuses (for instance, the older ones on Mondays and the younger ones on Tuesdays and going back to the older ones again on Fridays, etc.). They may even start abusing the grandchildren, nephews and nieces or just any children within the family circle, who may be available to them, therefore repeating the abuses in the various generations within the family;

8 The connivance and the negligence. The abusers may hide behind the connivance and/or negligence carried out by other family members, who may happen to know what is going on between them and the children (for example, having been told by the children themselves that their father had been touching them around the anus and genitals, without doing anything to either confirm what they had been told or confront the victimizers, whilst allowing them to keep on approaching the children without being submitted to any vigilance), or having known all along that there has always been a sexual attraction for children (for example, knowing that a grandfather has sexually abused three children in the past, and allowing him to look after the grandson for periods of time in which he will not be subject to any vigilance whatsoever, etc.).

to revenge or take the Law in one's hands, by being strongly violent towards the abusers. Many parents express these feelings by saying how strongly they would like to assassinate the sexual abusers as a way to solve the situation, not to mention the ones, who would like to castrate them;

3 A feeling of discomfort. Many parents show a feeling of permanent discomfort, as well as a great embarrassment when it comes to talking the matter over;

4 A feeling of helplessness and defencelessness. These may also be felt, as well as a feeling of loneliness, aggravated by a prevailing sense of not being able to trust anyone including those people they used to relate to (such as family members, friends, neighbours and acquaintances, etc.), especially if their children have been victimized by someone, whom they were affectionately or even socially close to. Being able to trust is a personal reality they may have difficulties to deal with, because of it having been affected. They will have a daily conditioned life, due to having developed a tendency to question everything and everyone, by permanently revisiting painful long gone events, re-experiencing sufferings and emotional problems they were not able to adequately resolve;

5 A feeling of despair. In a situation of losing track of a child or in which it is known that children have been kidnapped so as to be subject to trafficking or sexual exploitation, parents may get into absolute despair. Their whole life may then in a first instance be guided by one sole objective and necessity – to locate the child;

6 A lack of trust regarding the intervening action. Many parents may show an absolute lack of trust, regarding the intervening Institutions, namely the Police Authorities. The fact that in most cases they are not given any information on the investigations, determines their growing feeling of disbelief;

9 A matter of survival. Apart from the difficulties, these parents will end up mobilizing all their resources, as far as personality and inner capabilities are concerned, which they may have never taken advantage of, in order to survive. This survival may be easier, if supported by professionals, namely doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists, once health will almost certainly be affected. There will be changes in what concerns the sleeping habits - difficulty to get to sleep; nightmares; loss of appetite and changes in the eating habits; psychological pathologies and additional problems like getting addicted to drugs and alcohol, etc.;

10 Behavioural changes in terms of the relationship. The relationship with the children may also be affected by the inherent constraints and feelings of guilt and shame on either part; they may learn to develop new ways of dialoguing and regaining trust, by facing the problem together. The role played by the professionals might be of extreme importance, once they will see them through the whole supporting process.

11 A feeling of guilt. There may be a feeling of guilt for not having been able to find out/suspect that the children were being subject to sexual victimization. This feeling may be induced by the abusers (whenever they happen to be someone close to them, like for instance one's husband/wife or companion) in an attempt to manipulate the other as far as their self-defence is concerned;

12 A severe rupture. The relationship with the abusers will probably lead to a painful rupture, depending on the degree of affection - it may end up in a family separation or divorce. There may be some difficult decision making to be carried out, once the person they trusted and had planned a life ahead with, has betrayed them. In some cases there was domestic violence going on for some time already and the

15 The mourning perspective. In case any of these children disappears or dies as a consequence of the exerted sexual violence, it is expected that his/her sleeping room and most of his/her personal objects, such as toys and clothing might become sacred to the eyes of their parents. They may keep all of the children's objects untouched, as if ready to be used or worn, even if these children might have been deceased and/or gone for a long time, not to mention whenever and/or if ever they come back home at a later stage.

These objects become a sort of sanctuary of their children's memories and the eternal hope for their return. In some cases, the spaces, which have been previously occupied/used by the children are virtually turned into sanctuaries and locals in which they pray, once this religious perspective synthesizes their longing for the lost and long gone children. This solemn religious change value of the objects can be understood in the light of the parent's interpretation and may be supervised by the professionals, should they consider it a positive approach to the problem, the same way it might be discouraged should it be seen by them as being negative.

16 A persisting remembrance. Some parents get horrified and upset whenever children, who have been victimized show some sexual-oriented behavioural attitudes when dealing with adults and/or other children. This attitude on the part of the parents has to do with not being able to properly understand the children's reactions following a victimizing situation. Their loss of control regarding the reactions on the part of the children may be disadvantageous, once it stresses the children's fear, shame and guilt,

17 A difficult matter. Talking to children about the victimizing situation they have undergone is a rather difficult matter. It is important though, for them to strengthen their

cope with it all; they may also need to have the support of friends and family members, whom they can count on, in terms of confidentiality, serenity and confidence all the way through – aspects, which might have certainly been affected by such a dramatic incident.

The parents of these victimized children need to be helped by professionals, not only in what concerns the supporting process after having found out or been told of what has happened, but above all in what might have to do with controlling their own emotions and/or reactions when dealing with their children.

9. | The symptoms are subjective organic changes, which may have been originated by the state of health the victims find themselves in (complaints and spontaneous manifested feelings of physical and psychic illnesses). Some of these may be rather objective, though observed indirectly. Magalhães, T (2002). Maus tratos em crianças e jovens. Quarteto: Lisboa, page 51.
- 10 | Chapter 3, on the strategies used by the molester.
- 11 | Magalhães, T. (2002). Maus tratos em crianças e jovens. Quarteto: Lisboa, page 55.
- 12 | Magalhães, T. (2002). Maus tratos em crianças e jovens. Quarteto: Lisboa, page 56.
- 13 | Magalhães, T. (2002). Maus tratos em crianças e jovens. Quarteto: Lisboa, page 56.
- 14 | Magalhães, T. (2002). Maus tratos em crianças e jovens. Quarteto: Lisboa, page 58.
- 15 | Pornographic material involving children has been designated internationally, particularly in the circuits, in which it is exchanged and commercialised as "kiddie porn".