

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF **BOYS**

*A Global Initiative to Explore
the Sexual Exploitation of Boys*



THE GLOBAL BOYS' INITIATIVE



The initiative will:

- Consolidate and strengthen the **evidence base** of the sexual exploitation of boys **globally** and;
- Identify appropriate prevention, protection and recovery frameworks to **inform legislation, policy and programmes**.



WHAT DO WE KNOW?



- Under-researched
- Unrecognized as victims
- Limited boy-focused programming
- Research that did exist:
 - **boys were more affected than was generally recognized**

"Despite some signs of growing awareness, the impact on boys continues to be seriously under-researched, unrecognized in relevant legislation and policy and, thereby, potentially undetected and unaddressed"



GENDER, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (DEC 2019)

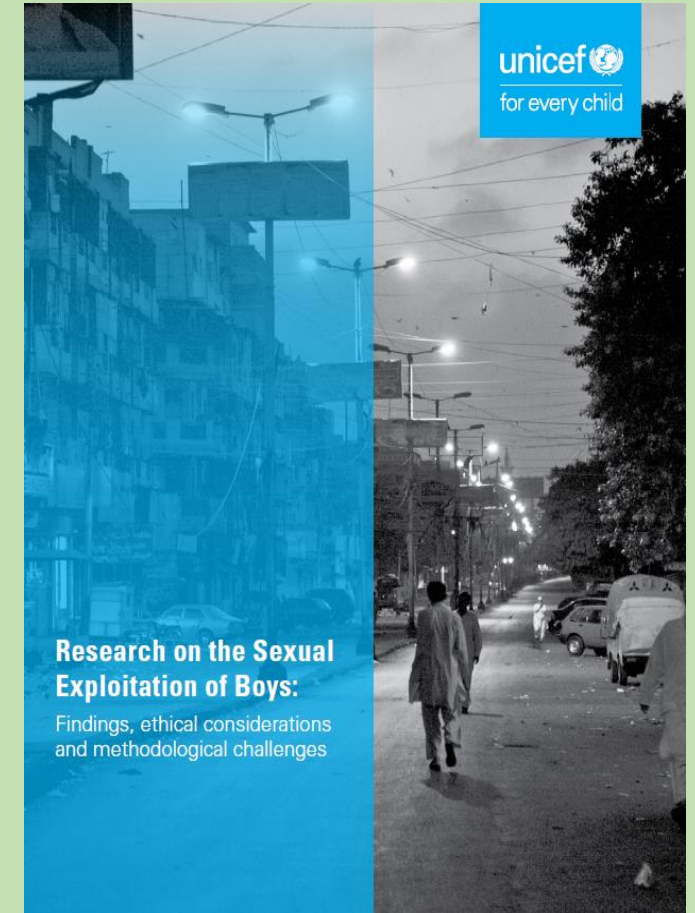
- 20.1% of children in online child sexual abuse images in the UK database were boys
- 30.5% of children in Interpol's database were boys
 - **When images included boys, the abuse was more severe**
- Street connected boys at very high risk of sexual exploitation
- In some travel and tourism settings boy victims outnumber girls



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MEASURING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF BOYS (APR 2020)

- Difficult to measure for all genders
 - **Under-reporting**
- Can be exacerbated in particular ways for boys
 - **Social and cultural attitudes**
 - **Terminology**
 - **Gender norms**
 - **Legislation**



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The Global Boys' Initiative

Research phase:
July 2020 – June 2021

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THE THAILAND REPORT (NOV 2020)



65 Frontline workers

- What affects boys' ability to seek and access support?
- What influences service providers ability to provide support?

20 young people with diverse SOGIE who are exchanging sex

- What social and cultural influences?
- What themes or patterns in experiences lead to sexual violence and exploitation?
- What factors prevent young people with diverse SOGIE from seeking and gaining support?

Legal Analysis

- Does Thai law allow for the full protection of boys from sexual exploitation and abuse?



GLOBAL 'LESSONS LEARNED' PROJECT



- ❑ McMaster University contracted to conduct a systematic literature review:
 - Formal peer-reviewed literature
 - Grey literature
 - sourced via the ECPAT network
- ❑ Academic paper summarising the reviewed literature

CO-CREATION WORKSHOPS



4 countries: Hungary, South Korea, Morocco and Belgium.

Purpose:

- ❑ Using participatory approaches with boy survivors to ensure that children's views are integrated and reflected
- ❑ Recommendations from boy survivors for **dignified and quality** services for survivors of sexual exploitation
- ❑ Use recommendations as **advocacy messages** to achieve increased access and improved services for boy survivors



LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

- ❑ Legislative analysis conducted with ECPAT members in 12 countries
- ❑ ECPAT will build capacity of members and lead them in reviewing their national laws in relation to sexual exploitation of boys



FRONTLINE PROVIDER SURVEY



- ❑ Partnership with Terre des Homme Netherlands
- ❑ Online survey of at least 50 Frontline welfare workers in each of 15 countries



SOME RESEARCH PHASE OUTPUTS

- ❑ Final national level reports for all activities
- ❑ Global level findings that inform and improve access and quality of services (with activities planned for next phase)
- ❑ Website that consolidates research findings and other resources