

SPEAK OUT AGAINST ABUSE!



**A GUIDE FOR ADOLESCENTS ON REPORTING CASES OF SALE AND SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR**

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography helps to bring better protection to children who experience sale and sexual exploitation. In this booklet you will learn **HOW TO CONNECT WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR**, and how to find out what's being done in your country to protect children.

One of the main reasons that children all over the world continue to be abused and mistreated is because **PEOPLE DON'T SPEAK OUT AGAINST IT**. Many times, children are afraid of getting into trouble, or ashamed of what they have experienced. That is why it is so important to have a UN expert whose job is to report cases of abuse, so that they can be prevented and so that children who have experienced abuse get the help they need.

This booklet talks about sexual abuse, violence and exploitation of children. These are tough issues. The goal of the booklet is to give you some information to help you speak out against these things, but we understand that this can make you feel uncomfortable, sad or scared. We encourage you to **TALK ABOUT THESE ISSUES WITH SOMEONE YOU TRUST**, who can help you get help if you need it. You can also read this booklet with other children and young people and talk about what you read here.

WHAT IS A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR?



“Rapporteur” simply means “a person who reports”. The United Nations Special Rapporteurs are **INDEPENDENT EXPERTS WHO REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS** across the world.

They focus either on one human rights theme or on a specific country.

For example, there is a Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, a Special Rapporteur on the right to education, and a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia. This booklet focuses on the **SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.**

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?

The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has a very special job. It's the only one that focuses only on children – that means girls and boys below the age of 18. He or she reports about sale and sexual exploitation of children in countries all over the world. For example, he or she finds out about:

- **CHILDREN WHO ARE SEXUALLY ABUSED, EITHER ONLINE OR PHYSICALLY:** This may include inappropriate pictures or videos of children posted online, adults or young people touching children in sexual ways, or making children look at inappropriate pictures or videos.
- **SELLING OR TRAFFICKING CHILDREN, EITHER FOR SEXUAL OR NON-SEXUAL REASONS:** This may include forcing children to work at a young age, adults illegally adopting children, selling or forcing children to be married, or selling children to use their organs.

You can find more details on all of the different issues that the Special Rapporteur works on his or her website:

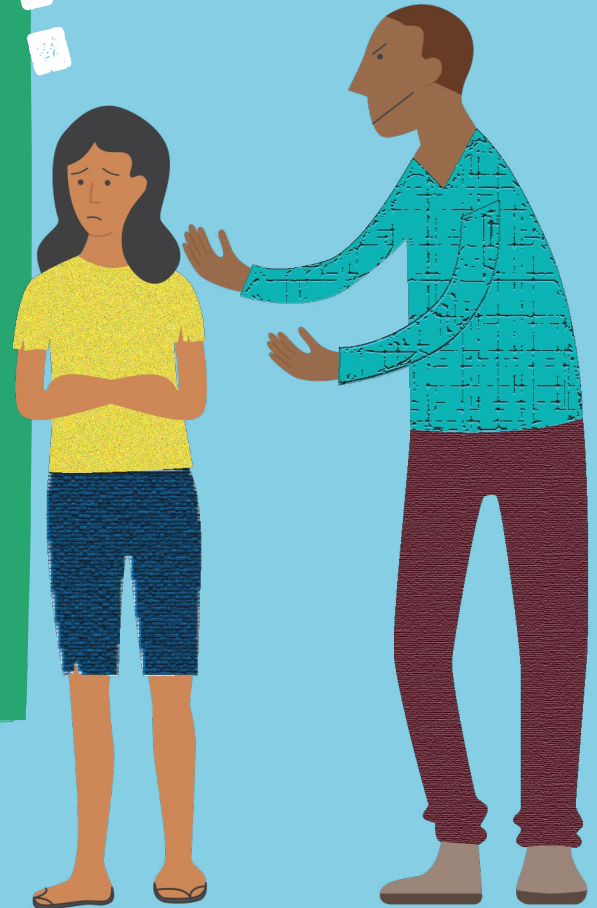
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx>

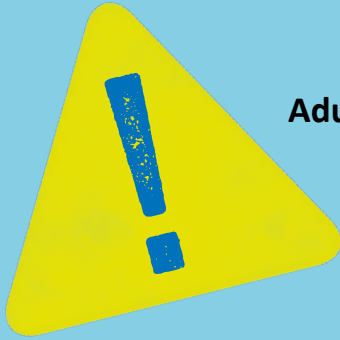
WHAT DOES EXPLOITATION MEAN?



“Exploitation” is when someone uses or abuses someone else in exchange for something, such as money, or for their own personal pleasure. Exploitation is harmful to the other person, either physically or emotionally. When it comes to children, there are two main types of exploitation:

- “Economic exploitation” is when someone makes money by using a child, whether for work, as child soldiers, or for use in gangs.
- “Sexual exploitation” is when a child is used or abused for sexual purposes, whether or not the child agrees.





Adults should never have sexual activities with children. **IT IS AGAINST THE LAW** to touch children in a sexual way or, for example, ask children to provide pictures of themselves naked, undress in front of a webcam or have sex with other people.

It is important for you to know that if this happens to you **IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT**, even if you feel you have agreed to have contact with that person. **YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY NO** and seek help of the police or a person you can trust so that it can stop.

If you know about a child who might be in trouble, or spot an adult behaving in an inappropriate way, you should **TALK TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST**.



WHAT DOES THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR DO?

Every government has a responsibility to make sure that children are safe and protected. The Special Rapporteur's goal is to make sure that every country in the world, including yours, protects the rights of children, and that no child experiences abuse or exploitation. So he or she gathers information, talks to people, including children, and does research to understand the topics we mentioned before, and **WRITES REPORTS TO MAKE SURE THE WORLD KNOWS** what is going on in different countries.

Here are some examples of the reports that the Special Rapporteur has written:

- Protection of children from sexual exploitation on the Internet
- Helping children recover from abuse and sexual exploitation
- Making sure children are protected from abuse after natural disasters

The Special Rapporteur does a lot more than just writing reports. He or she **VISITS COUNTRIES** to see what the country is doing to protect children. He or she works to make sure people know about these issues by speaking at conferences, talking to journalists and doing interviews. The Special Rapporteur also **MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS**, civil society and businesses, so that everyone can do their part to better protect children and young people.



It's also important that you know that the Special Rapporteur's job is to make sure the world knows about situations of sale and sexual exploitation of children. The Special Rapporteur cannot give direct help to children who have been abused. His or her job is to **MAKE SURE YOUR GOVERNMENT PROTECTS YOU AND YOUR RIGHTS.**

If you have experienced violence and need help, please contact a person you trust or a local children's organisation.

HOW DOES THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR GET HIS OR HER INFORMATION?

This is where you come in! Sexual exploitation and abuse are issues that are affecting girls and boys of different ages all over the world. It's **REALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHARE** with the Special Rapporteur what's going on and what you think is most important.

Here are some ways you can help the Special Rapporteur to get the best possible information about the sale and sexual exploitation of children in your country:

- 1** **WRITE A LETTER** to the Special Rapporteur **ABOUT A LAW IN YOUR COUNTRY** that is not protecting children from exploitation.
- 2** If the Special Rapporteur is planning to visit your country, find out if he or she can **MEET WITH YOU AND/OR A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE**. You can see which countries the Special Rapporteur is going to be visiting on this webpage: <http://spinternet.ohchr.org/Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/Forthcomingcountryvisits.aspx>

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When the Special Rapporteur is working on a report, **YOU CAN SEND INFORMATION** that you think he or she may not know about. You can find out which reports are coming up on his or her website: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx>

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If you or someone you know has faced the types of abuses we've talked about in this booklet, talk to an adult you trust. Decide with that adult if you would like to **SHARE YOUR PERSONAL STORY** with the Special Rapporteur. For more details on doing this, please visit the webpage: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/IndividualComplaints.aspx>





READY TO WRITE?

If you're ready to send information to the Special Rapporteur, there are a few ways you can do that.

Go to his or her website:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/IndividualComplaints.aspx>

Write a letter to this address:

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations at Geneva
814 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Write an email to this address: srsaleofchildren@ohchr.org

You can write your email or letter in English, Spanish or French. If you need help writing your letter, contact a local children's organisation.

LET'S DO SOME RESEARCH!

Do some research on the laws in your country!

You can either visit your public library, or you can start by visiting one of these websites:

- Visit your country's UNICEF website: <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/>
- Read your country's profile written by ECPAT International: <http://www.ecpat.org/resources>
- Read your country's profile written by Save the Children: <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/>

To give you some ideas, you can look for information about things like:

- Does your country have a child helpline through which children who have experienced abuse can call and ask for help?
- Does your Government have a Children's Ombudsperson or Child Rights Commissioner? (Look them up if you don't know what they mean!)
- Does your Government provide medical or psychological help for children when they have been abused or exploited?
- What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography?
- Has your country ratified the Convention and the Optional Protocol? You can find out more about these important pieces of international law on the Internet.
- Does your country punish adults who have abused children?

These questions are just to help you get started in finding out more about what your country is doing to make sure no child faces abuse or exploitation.

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