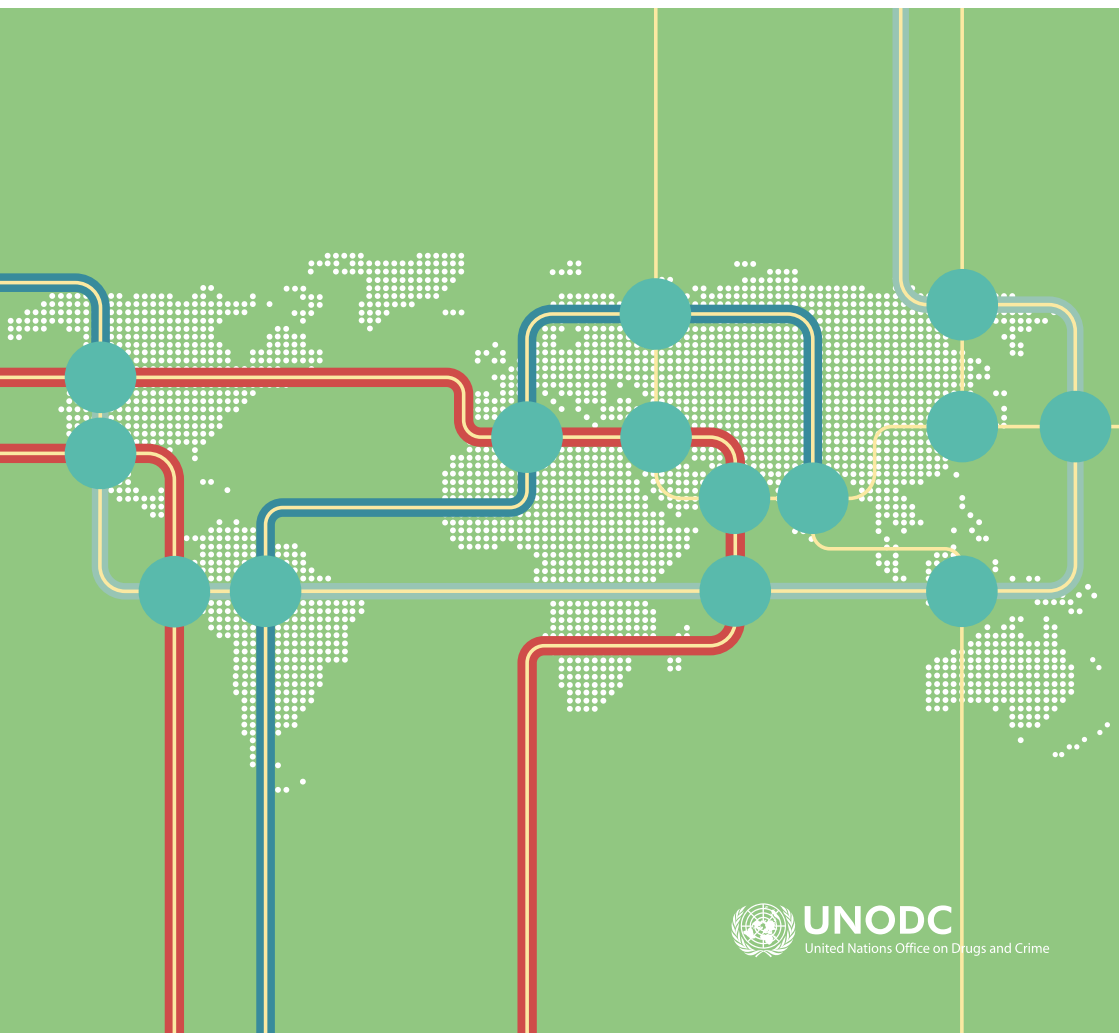


Investigating Sex Trade Crimes: A field guide for frontline officers



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Copyright © United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018. This field guide was produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, Thailand.

This is not an official document of the United Nations. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers and boundaries.

UNODC would like to recognize the contribution of the Government of Australia, the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America.

To view this publication from a mobile device or to access other UNODC publications, please scan the QR code.



This content is updated regularly with new information. For the latest version of content and to access other materials and tools please visit the QR code.

Investigating Sex Trade Crimes: A field guide for frontline officers

This publication contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 5 that seeks to: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. As well as Sustainable Development Goal 16 that seeks to: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”



The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030.

Sex crimes are a global issue that has profound ramifications for victims and their families. It is estimated that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men have been the subject of a sex crime. The global trade in sex crimes requires a coordinated and professional law enforcement response.

The advent of the internet and the global reach it offers has also created opportunities for criminals and major issues for law enforcement. The auctioning of victims online and the sharing of naked images and videos of children, boys and girls, and women are new phenomena that law enforcement struggles to eradicate as criminals become smarter, have greater access to technology and operate from ever changing locations. The internet has also changed the way we meet the opposite sex, and in turn has created opportunities for criminals to groom children or meet victims they would otherwise not know or have access too.

Sex crimes are also one of the most difficult types of crimes for a law enforcement officer to investigate. It requires them to be empathic, non-judgmental and patient. It also exposes them to the abhorrent dark side of human behavior which can be emotionally challenging as they see the damage caused to the victims of these crimes.

Table of Contents

1. What are Sex Trade Crimes	6	9. Victims of Sex Trade Crimes	17
2. International legal instruments to address Sex Trade Crimes	7	10. Forensic Examination	18
3. National Legislation	8	11. Securing the Evidence	19
4. Investigating Sex Trade Crimes	9	12. Shielding of Electronic Devices	21
5. Sources of Information	11	13. Chain of Custody	22
6. The Internet and Sex Trade Crimes	12	14. Interviewing Victims of Sex Crimes	23
7. Sharing Intelligence	14	15. Interviewing Suspects	26
8. Risk Profiling	15	16. Financial Investigations	30
		17. Travel Documents	32

1. WHAT ARE SEX TRADE CRIMES

Sex crimes refer to criminal offences of a sexual nature. Traditionally sex crimes mainly encompass:

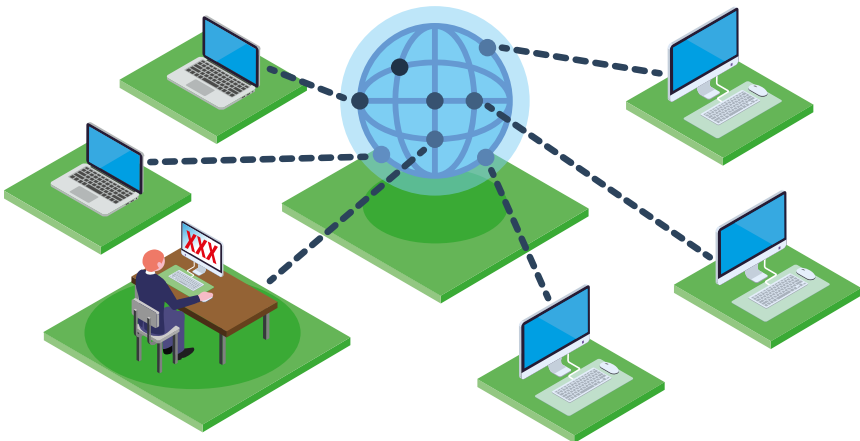
- Sexual assault.
- Indecent assault.
- Human trafficking.
- Sex trafficking.

Different jurisdictions may have different definitions for what constitutes sexual and indecent assault. Refer to your national legislation for these definitions.

The advent of the internet and the prevalence of smartphones and covert recording devices has forced law enforcement agencies to address the proliferation of:

- Possession/distribution of child pornography.
- Grooming.
- Revenge porn.
- Surreptitious recording of sexual activity.

In some jurisdictions the law has not caught up with these types of crimes whilst in others it has forced the drafting of new legislation or the creation of exemptions or defences, particularly around children sending other children naked images of themselves.



1. WHAT ARE SEX TRADE CRIMES

The focus of this handbook will be Sex Trade Crimes. These are crimes that are frequently found in the sex trade, including:

- Human Trafficking.
- Possession/distribution of child pornography.
- Prostitution.
- Sexual slavery
-

The focus of this handbook will be;

- Human Trafficking
- Possession/distribution of child pornography

A knowledge and understanding of these areas will assist police and law enforcement officers in addressing and investigating sex trade crimes.



2. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS TO ADDRESS SEX TRADE CRIMES

There is no international legal instrument that specifically focuses on sex trade crimes. However, there are several international instruments that capture various elements of sex crimes generally. These include;

- **Geneva Convention (1949).**

- Common Article 3(1)(c) provides that ‘outrages upon personal dignity’ are prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to persons hors de combat.

- **1949 Geneva Convention IV.**

- Article 27, ‘Woman shall be especially protected against any attack against their honor, in particular rape, enforced prostitution of any form of indecent assault.’

- **United Nations Convention Against Organised Crime (UNOTC).**

- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Article 5.

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

- Article 34 – sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**

- Adopted and proclaimed by UN General Assembly Resolution 271 A(III), 10 December 1948.

- **International Criminal Court Statute, 1988**

- Pursuant to Article 7(1)(g) – rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity constitutes a crime against humanity ‘when committed as part of a widespread or systemic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.’
- Pursuant to Article 8(2)(b)(xxii) and (e)(vi) – rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence constitutes a war crime in both international and non-national armed conflict.



3. NATIONAL LEGISLATION

In many countries within the region there are not one, but several overlapping pieces of legislation that may be relevant to the investigation of the trade in sex crimes. It is important that you understand your domestic legislation and your departments roles and responsibilities as this may impact on the admissibility of any evidence you collect and your ability to exercise your powers. You should keep yourself up to date with the legislation relating to sex offences in your jurisdiction.

During an investigation into the trade in sex crimes, and in particular the transnational aspects of sex offences including sexual assaults, child pornography, sexual slavery and human trafficking several different agencies may play a protective and law enforcement role. The trafficking of people may require a police and immigration response, whereas the importation of child pornography may be investigated by customs or police. You should be aware of what role you and your agency play in the investigation of sex crimes.

You should make yourself aware of the relevant agencies within your government and the departments within your agency that specialise in sex crimes or the provision of services to the victims of sex crimes. Survivor/Victim care should be your primary concern when investigating these types of crimes.

You should also be aware of what systems are in place (if any) around how victims can testify in court for sexual related matters including whether victims are allowed to testify in a closed court or without having to face the suspect.



4. INVESTIGATING SEX TRADE CRIMES

Crimes committed as part of the sex trade are some of the most difficult types of crimes for a law enforcement officer to investigate. It requires you to be empathic, non-judgmental, patient and aware of the myriad of different emotions experienced by the victims. It exposes you to the abhorrent dark side of human behaviour which can be emotionally challenging as you see the damage caused to the victims of these crimes.



Some sex crimes such as sexual and indecent assault will often come down to the word of the victim against that of the suspect. It is because of this that some adult victims of sex crimes who have received both physical and psychological injuries do not wish to relive their experiences by going through the investigative and court process. In these instances, you should respect their decisions not to proceed with their case. Victim welfare is always the primary concern during the investigation of sex crimes.

Given the broad nature of sex trade crime you may need to also rely upon the support of specialist police and other experts to assist you in gathering evidence and presenting this evidence to the court.

Often the investigation of the sex trade crime will be reactive, as victims come forward to make their complaints or as trafficking networks are exposed. Others may be proactive, such as investigations into

4. INVESTIGATING SEX TRADE CRIMES

paedophile networks sharing images of children online. Irrespective of the type of investigation you undertake there are several important things to consider, including:

- Have I identified the victim(s) subject to my investigation?
- Have I identified the suspect(s) subject to my crime?
- Have I identified any witnesses to the crime?
- Has the victim been forensically assessed?
- Do I have a legal basis for my investigation?
- Have I identified the offences that have been/suspected of being committed?
- Is the crime of a transnational nature?
- Do I have sufficient resources to undertake the investigation?
- What are my department's procedures?
- Do I require specialist support?
- Does the victim (if an adult) wish for this matter to be investigated?
- Do I need to discuss this case with a prosecutor?



4. INVESTIGATING SEX TRADE CRIMES

Once you consider these questions, you will need to plan your investigation. You should prepare an investigation plan whether your investigation is reactive or proactive. Some investigation plans may be very comprehensive, while others may be only 1 page long. For all criminal cases your investigation plan should as a minimum include:

- Relevant legislation and offence(s) committed.
- Suspect (if identified).
- Resources you will need, human, financial and material you will need.
- Does this case have a transnational component.
- Other agencies that may assist you, locally, nationally and internationally.
- Victim welfare.
- Forensic evidence.
- Crime scene identification.
- Victim corroboration.
- Identify relevant investigative methods.
 - Interviews
 - Surveillance – physical and electronic.
 - Undercover.
 - Technical.
 - Informants.
 - Analytical support.



Given the insidious nature of this crime and the potentially devastating effects it can have on its victims and their families you should utilise the full range of tools at your disposal to investigate sex crimes.

5. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

In respect to sex trade crimes the primary source of information will be the victims of the crimes, the suspects or the people who have witnessed such crimes.

However, corroborative information or intelligence can be gathered from a range of other different sources. These can be divided into five general categories:

Workers and General Public

- Bar operators
- Street vendors
- Taxi Drivers
- Teachers
- Doctors
- Hospital Staff
- Psychologists
- Priests/Iman's

Service Providers

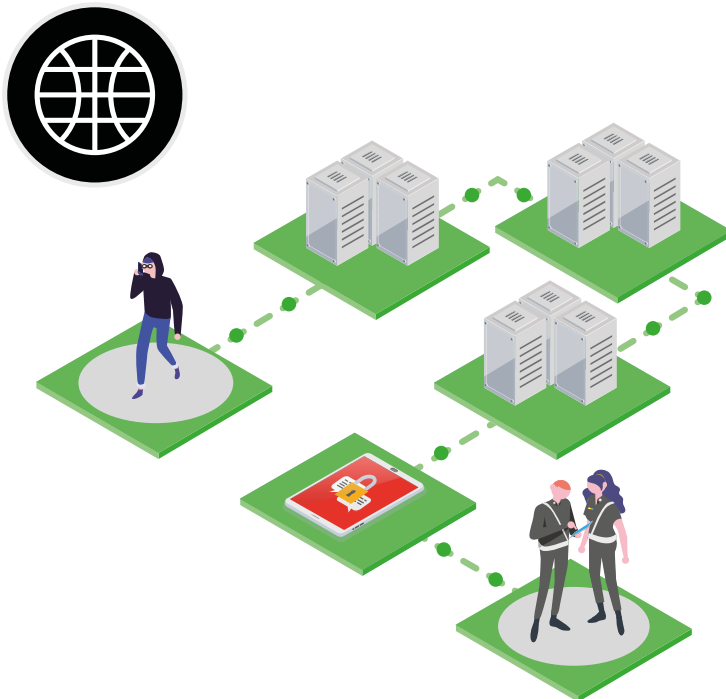
- Bus companies
- Airlines
- Shipping agents
- Phone companies
- Internet service providers
- Financial institutions



6. THE INTERNET AND SEX TRADE CRIMES

The internet has revolutionised the way we live. As technology has developed so too has the ability for sex offenders to use this technology to facilitate their criminal activities. The advent of web-based encrypted communication applications, the dark web, social media and the increased sophistication of mobile telephones have provided sex offenders with greater flexibility, anonymity and reach.

The sharing of images or videos of naked children, the auctioning of women and children and the grooming of young children via the internet are major issues for law enforcement. Much of this activity has been occurring on the dark web, which is a collection of websites operating on an encrypted network with hidden IP addresses - all of which give users strong anonymity protection. Because they are not indexed by traditional search engines, you can only access them with special anonymity browser, such as I2P, Freenet, and the most common, The Onion Router (TOR) bundle.



6. THE INTERNET AND SEX TRADE CRIMES

Several law enforcement and intelligence agencies have run successful major undercover operations targeting sex offenders using the dark web. If you believe that your sex crimes investigation involves criminal activity on the dark web then you should consult with the speciality unit within your department that addresses cybercrime, if one exists. These types of operations require specialist training and equipment.

Another method utilised by paedophile networks to share images on the internet is known as 'masking' or 'breadcrumbing.' Criminals hide images from regular web users, while allowing others to track down criminal images and films by following a series of covert clues. If web users access the site directly, they will see legitimate content. However, if the site is accessed by following a series of links it will allow access to the child sexual abuse imagery.

One area where you will find potentially valuable evidence and intelligence on sex crimes is through the analysis of suspects social media accounts, in particular any communications between closed groups. Social media offers law enforcement agencies the opportunity to gather intelligence on sex offenders and the ability to map their network of friends, images of their assets and notifications of where they are eating at restaurants, travelling on holidays, or meeting with friends may provide intelligence or investigative opportunities. Examples of social media sites include:

- Facebook.
- Snapchat.
- YouTube.
- Twitter.
- Instagram.
- WeChat.
- Zalo.

While these platforms make it easier for sex offenders to communicate and gain access to their victims, they also present opportunities for investigators. You can use them as possible entry points for undercover investigators and for collecting intelligence and potentially evidence. Never use your own account to communicate with suspected sex of-

fender on any of these sites. You should create or utilise covert accounts for your communications.

Should you communicate with suspects on these sites with the purpose of collecting evidence remember to:

- Ensure that your actions are legal within your jurisdiction.
- Ensure that you have the permission from your supervisor.
- Always use a covert account.
- Screenshot the suspects profile – this can be changed by them at a later date.
- Screenshot any messages between you and the suspects.
- Record any videos or messages they send to you.
- If possible, do not share your photograph with a suspect.
- If possible, do not post your photograph on your covert profile.
- Refrain from talking via video with the suspect.
- Ensure chain of custody of any evidence you collect (see chapter 11).

Another area where you may collect valuable intelligence or evidence are web-based communication applications. These systems offer end to end encryption between users which makes interception difficult. Examples of these types of platforms include:

- WhatsApp.
- Viber.
- Line.
- WeChat.
- Telegram.
- Signal
- Wire.

The easiest way to collect evidence of a suspect's criminality using these platforms (prior to arrest) is to connect and communicate directly with them in an undercover capacity. If you have the suspects phone in your possession, then you can collect the digital evidence using a cell phone analytical tool such as Cellebrite, or the physical recording of messages, photos, videos, call records or audio conversations.

7. SHARING INTELLIGENCE

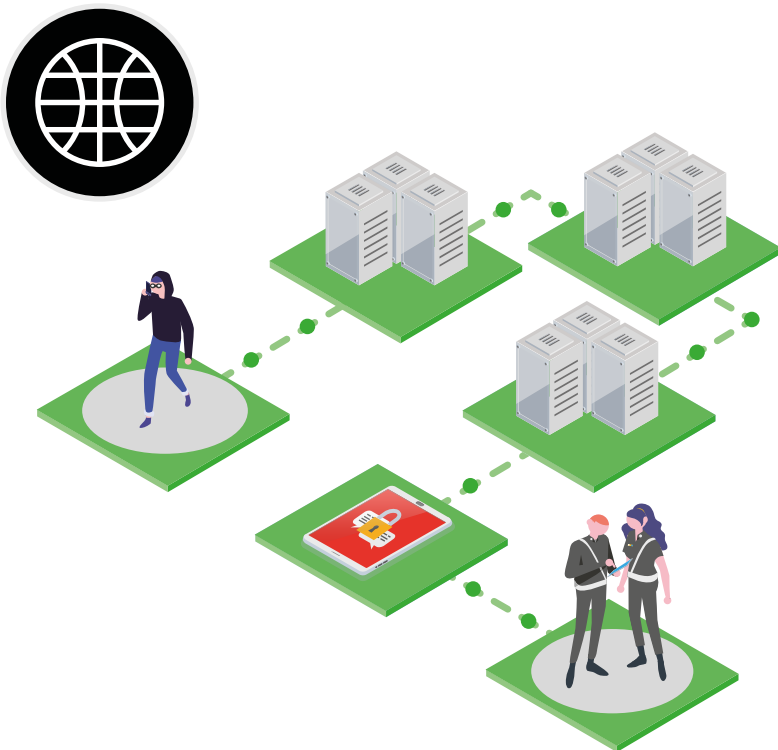
If the intelligence you have collected may assist a local or foreign law enforcement agency, then it should be forwarded to your national intelligence Unit or Interpol for dissemination.

The forwarding agency can search for and enter information into international databases and issue notices and alerts.

The intelligence unit should consider sending such intelligence through foreign liaison officers, or international or regional mechanisms.

Field officers should complete an intelligence report and submit it to national or regional HQ

Upon receipt of intelligence, the receiving HQ will disseminate the intelligence to the appropriate agency for action.



As a frontline law enforcement officer, you may be forced to identify both the victims and suspects involved in sex trade crimes, particularly in human trafficking cases.

Consider how many men, women and children enter and leave your country every year? How many passengers fly into or out of your airports or how many vehicles cross your border? Trying to find victims of sex trade crimes is very difficult without a strategy to narrow your focus.

To help you identify the potential victims of sex trade crimes it is important that you develop or utilise a risk management system. This system will help you identify potential victims or suspects through analysis of risk indicators.

Examples of general risk indicators include:

- Shares a scripted or inconsistent history when questioned?
- Is unwilling or hesitant to answer questions?
- Is accompanied by an individual who does not let them speak for themselves?
- Demonstrates fearful or nervous behaviour.
- Avoids eye contact.
- Is resistant or demonstrates hostile behaviour.
- Is unable to provide his/her address.
- Is unable to provide the location they are traveling to.



8. RISK PROFILING

- Is not aware of their location, date or the time.
- Is unable to provide his/her identification documents.
- Is not in control of their own money.
- Is not being paid or wages are withheld.
- Victim is under the age of 18 and involved in the sex industry.
- Has tattoos on their body indicating ownership by others ie 'Property of,' 'Daddy,' or 'For Sale.'
- Reports an unusually high number of sex partners.
- Does not have appropriate clothing for the weather or venue.
- They use language commonly used in the sex industry.

Many victims of sex trade crimes also display physical and mental symptoms that may be indicative of human trafficking. Some of these may be visible to law enforcement officers, others to medical or health workers.

Physical symptoms

- Physical abuse or unexplained injuries;
- Bruising.
- Burns.
- Cuts or wounds.
- Blunt force trauma.
- Fractures.
- Broken teeth.
- Signs of torture.
- Sexually transmitted diseases.
- Repeated unwanted pregnancies.
- Forced or pressured abortions.
- Sexual dysfunction.
- Retained foreign bodies.

Mental Health Issues

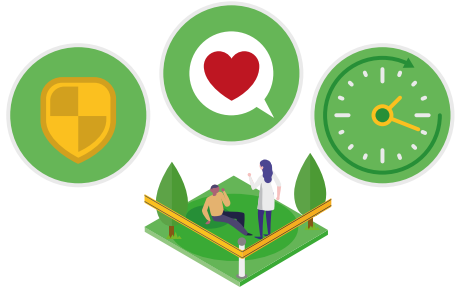
- Mental health indicators including;
- Depression.
- Suicidal tendencies.
- Self-harming behaviours.
- Anxiety.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Nightmares.
- Flashbacks.
- Hyper vigilance.
- Increased engagement in high risk behaviours.
- Trauma bonding with trafficker – Stockholm Syndrome.
- Delayed physical or cognitive development.
- Impaired social skills.

This list is not exhaustive; however, it represents a good starting point. If you detect one or more of these risk indicators you should consider interviewing the suspect and/or victim.

9. VICTIMS OF SEX TRADE CRIMES

As a frontline law enforcement officer, you are there to represent the interests of the victims of sex trade crimes. They are not there to serve your interests. There are three major needs that victims of sex trade crimes have. These are:

- The need to feel safe.
- The need to express their emotions.
- The need to know what comes next after their victimisation.



You may also see behaviour characteristics exhibited by victims of sex trade crimes that you may not normally see in other crime types. It is important that you recognise these signs and do not immediately associate them with deceptive behaviour on behalf of the victims. Some behaviour characteristics that you may encounter include:

- Self-blame.
- Humiliation and embarrassment.
- Loss of affection or numb response.
- Omission of details.
- Reluctance to report.
- Incomplete memory.
- Nightmares/flashbacks.
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- Anger directed at others for not protecting him/her.



The way that you treat a victim of sex trade crimes may have a major impact on the welfare of that victim and the quality of evidence that you can obtain from them.

Forensic examination can provide crucial evidence in sex trade crimes. This forensic examination can include victims, suspects and any location that may be a crime scene or may contain evidence of the crime.

Victim

Most law enforcement agencies have policies and procedures concerning the forensic examination of victims of a sex crime. These examinations can be intrusive and are usually undertaken by a medical professional, with perhaps a crime scene officer or investigator present. You should refer to your department's procedures when it comes to the examination of a victim.

These examinations can cause great distress to the victims and they should be offered the services of a counsellor. You should check if the hospital where the victim is tested has access to these services.

Suspect

The forensic examination of suspects may provide evidence of their guilt or of their innocence. This forensic examination can include collection of their DNA, hair, fingerprints, blood and/ or the photographing of their bodies. You should refer to your departments policies in relation to the examination of suspects.



Other locations or things.

Once you have identified that you need to conduct a search of a location or for a thing, whether that is a hotel, vessel, vehicle or place ensure that you have the following items at hand to undertake the search (if available).

11. SECURING THE EVIDENCE

You should only search for and seize evidence relating to sex trade crimes if you are lawfully entitled to do so.

There are many ways that evidence relating to sex trade crimes may come into your possession. It may be as a result of a forensic examination of a suspect or victim, a person search, vehicle or vessel search, searching baggage, a container or searching a residential or business premises. Irrespective of how this evidence comes into your possession ***you must document the scene and record the actions you take when you seize the digital media device or other supporting evidence.***

This evidence may help you corroborate a victims, witnesses or suspects testimony prove. This may include:

- Clothing.
- Condoms, tissues.
- Blood.
- Cell phones.
- Photographs and videos.
 - Chat messages.
 - Computers.
 - Bank statements.
 - Digital media devices.

Prior to the search you should:

- Photograph and/or video the search area.
- Draw a map of the scene.
- If you have other officers to assist you, then assign each a specific role i.e. search, exhibit officer, officer in charge and photographer.

During the search you should:

- Search the area systematically.
- Video the search.

11. SECURING THE EVIDENCE

- Document the location where each item is found.
- Bag or secure items seized clearly labelling each with a unique identification number.
- Create a record of all items seized.
- Complete chain of custody documentation.

Evidence associated with sex crimes may also contain traces of DNA and fingerprints. You should enquire with your Supervisor whether your agency has the facilities to collect and analyse this type of evidence. It may be crucial evidence in identifying suspects or corroborating a victim's account of events.



12. SHIELDING OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The investigation of the sex crime trades may require you to seize electronic devices that have been used to store or transmit child pornography. Some mobile telephone and computer operating systems allow for the remote access to, or remote wiping of the contents of the device. Given that these devices may contain evidence it is crucial that you protect these devices from external manipulation.

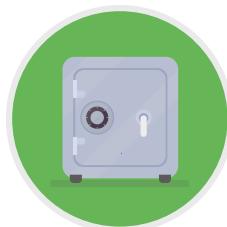
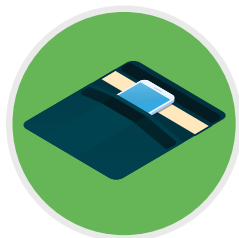
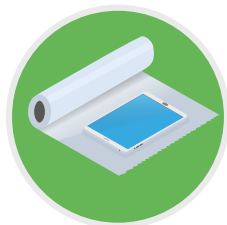
There are several ways that you can do this. Some evidence requires the use of readily available products while others are dedicated systems developed to address these issues.

Some of the materials that you can use to prevent remote access to these systems include:

- **Aluminum foil** – Mobile phones placed in a box and then wrapped in aluminum foil will not receive a signal. The aluminum foil is an electrical conductor and creates what is called a Faraday cage preventing outside access to the device.
- **Faraday bags** – these are purpose made military grade shielding bags that block all major signals including 3-4G, Bluetooth, RFID, Wi-Fi and GP.
- **Stored inside a full metal safe** – A full metal safe should also be able to block any attempts to remotely access the phone.

When using any of these methods it is always a good idea to try them out with your own phone first. Place your own phone inside one of the shielding devices and try to call it. If you can hear your phone ring the method is not blocking the signal.

Please see the UNODC Pocket Handbook on Electronic Storage Devices for more information on how to undertake these investigations.



Chain of Custody refers to the chronological documentation and/or paper trail showing the seizure, custody, control, transfer, analysis and disposition of evidence. Because evidence can be used in court to convict someone of a crime, it must be handled in a careful manner to avoid allegations of tampering or misconduct which can potentially compromise a case.

You are responsible for making a record of any evidence pertaining to sex crimes that comes into your possession and what you subsequently do with that evidence. If you hand it to another officer, or to an expert, or even back to the suspect you must make a record of this movement on a Chain of Custody form.

There are many examples of Chain of Custody forms available on the internet, but you should first check whether your Department has its own form before using one of these.

A chain of custody form should as a minimum include the following information about the evidence you have seized:

- Date Collected.
- Time Collected.
- Item Number or Barcode Number.
- Case or Event Number.
- Who collected the item.
- Where the item was collected.
- The suspect's name.
- A thorough description of the item.
- Offence for which the item was collected.
- Where the item is stored.
- Any person who came into possession of the item, the reason for this, and the date and time that this occurred.



14. INTERVIEWING VICTIMS OF SEX CRIMES

Victims of sex crimes may experience both physical and psychological injuries as a result of their experience. It is crucial that the interviewing process does not exacerbate this any further.

Adult Victims

When interviewing adult victims of sex trade crimes:

- Create a safe and secure environment for the interview. Remember confidentiality is crucial to her safety. Keep her personal information confidential. Do not share with friends, family, and acquaintance.
- Have an officer of the same sex interview the victim.
- Establish a rapport with the victim.
- Don't rush the interview, be attentive and listen carefully.
- Don't blame the survivor/victim.
- Provide immediate emotional support. Comfort the survivor/victim and tell them it is not their fault. Believe them and give the person time to say what they want to say.
- Don't make choices for the survivor/victim, always ask for their consent and respect their right to decide for themselves what action they wish to take.
- Don't touch survivors/victims
- Stay calm and don't overreact
- Don't take photos of the survivor/victim
- Don't discriminate for any reason such as gender, age, disability, religion, ethnicity, class and sexual orientation
- If the survivor/victim is extremely vulnerable (eg. Disability/ Pregnant / lesbian/transgender/elderly) and needs support to take action, with their permission, accompany them to a designated service provider or appropriate leader.

It is important that the interview process does not lead to the re-victimisation.

Things not to say to the victim of a sex crime:

- Everything is going to be alright.
- Don't cry.
- You shouldn't feel that way.
- I know how you feel.
- You must get on with your life.
- I promise, I'll get this guy and he'll go to jail for a long time.
- If you have behaved/acted differently this wouldn't have happened to you.

Questions to ask sex trade crime victims:

- Do you feel safe?
- Where did you meet (the suspect)?
- How did you meet (the suspect)?
- When did you meet (the suspect)?
- What did (the suspect) tell you?
- How do you communicate with (the suspect)?
- Where are you from?
- What was your occupation?
- Have you been instructed what to say to police or immigration officials if they speak to you?
- Are you free to leave your job or where you live if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Does someone accompany you when you leave your home or work?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Have you been physically harmed in any way?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you eat and sleep?
- What do you sleep on?
- Have you ever been deprived of sleep, food, water or medical care?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?

14. INTERVIEWING VICTIMS OF SEX CRIMES

- Are there locks on your doors or windows so you can't get out?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- Has your identification card or passport been taken from you?
- Is anyone forcing you to do anything you do not want to do?
- Are you permitted to have a mobile telephone?
- Are you permitted to call friends or family members?
- Do you receive all the money you earn from your job?
- Is the job or job conditions different from what you had agreed to?

For child victims

Remember that the care and welfare of the child is the primary concern. Ensure the child has been fed, has slept and if necessary has been provided medical care prior to the interview.

Child victims should not (as a rule) be interviewed where they live, be it their home or children's shelter (Unless the shelter has a specific room set aside for interviewing).

Other things to consider;

- Rooms where children are interviewed should be 'child friendly' with a few toys, warm colours and soft carpets.
- The child should be asked basic questions in a language they can understand. Refrain from using baby talk.
- The child should be asked questions to determine if they know the difference between right and wrong.
- If possible do not to use leading questions.
- Children should not, where possible, be asked to repeat their account.
- The interview should be videotaped. This helps having to go over questions that may be distressing to the child.

14. INTERVIEWING VICTIMS OF SEX CRIMES

A support person should be provided for the child. The choice of this person will depend upon the circumstances of how the child was trafficked or smuggled.

If the child's account is very brief be careful about pushing the child too hard for further detail. You will run the risk of traumatizing the child.

If the child's account is very brief or where limited information is provided you may wish to consider stopping the interview. You may need to review the information you have at a later stage with a prosecutor and the child's caregiver.

Human Rights

If you suspect that a child has been sexually assaulted and/or molested, the child should NOT be asked to demonstrate the act to anyone but medical staff.

Evidence of First Complaint

In some jurisdictions, Courts will allow the words spoken by a victim of a sex crime and the first witness that they disclose the crime too as admissible evidence in Court.



15. INTERVIEWING SUSPECTS

When interviewing suspects:

- Have two officers present
- One officer should take notes
- Record the interview wherever possible
- Consider the welfare needs of the suspect
- Ensure that female suspects are protected and that they feel safe
- Consider the need for an interpreter
- If the suspect is a juvenile, consider the need for a social worker or other authorised support person

Some crimes such as Human Trafficking require prosecutors to prove several elements of the crime including;

- Act
- Recruit
- Transport
- Transfer
- Harbour
- Receive
- Give/Receive benefit
- Control
- Means
- Violence
- Threat of violence
- Coercion
- Abduction
- Fraud
- Deception
- Abuse of power or position of vulnerability

- Purpose
- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labour
- Slavery
- Servitude
- Organ Removal
- Force labour or services

You can address these elements through your questions to the suspects. Sample Interview Questions for Human Trafficking Suspects include:

- What is your role in the trafficking organization?
- How long have you done this?
- How many people work for you (or who do you work for)?
- How do you communicate with these people?
- How many mobile telephones do you use to conduct your business (and what are the numbers of your telephones)?
- Do you use the internet to arrange for the trafficking of people?
- Do you use code when discussing the trafficking of people on the telephone or internet (if yes, what is the code)?
- Do you specialize in a type of person to traffic (men, women or children)?
- How do you source people to traffic?
- How much do you pay for each person?
- Who do you pay for them?
- How do you pay for them?
- Who do you traffic these people to?
- How do you transport the people you traffic from the source to the buyer?
- How much does your buyer pay you per person you traffic?

15. INTERVIEWING SUSPECTS

- What are the costs you incur to traffic someone?
- How much do you receive after costs per person you traffic?
- What methods do you use to guarantee compliance of the people you traffic?
- Do you threaten the people you traffic with violence?
- Have you assaulted any of the people you have trafficked?
- Do you provide travel documents to the people you traffic?
- Where do you get the travel documents from?
- How much do you pay for the travel documents?
- What do you do with the trafficked persons travel documents (real or fake)?
- Are there any government officials assisting you to traffic people?
- How many people have you trafficked?
- What is your relationship to the victim(s)?
- Why do you traffic people?
- Do you know that you are committing a crime?

Sample Interview Questions for Businesses that Employ Victims of Sex Crimes

- Who owns the business?
- What is your role in the business?
- What services does your business provide?
- How do you source your migrant/ trafficked employees?
- What role do the trafficked employees have in your business?
- How much do you pay them per week for their services?
- How do you determine the age of your trafficked employees?
- Do you make any deductions from their weekly wages? If yes, what are these deductions?

- What happens to a trafficked employee if they try to leave without
- Permission?
- Do you threaten your trafficked employees with violence?
- Who moves your trafficked employees to or from the business?
- How often do you feed your trafficked employees?
- Who pays for the food?
- Where do your trafficked employees sleep?
- How often are they allowed to use the bathroom?
- Are your trafficked employees indebted to you?
- Are your trafficked employees allowed to buy their freedom?
- What happens to the travel documents of your trafficked employees?
- Are there any government officials assisting you to employ trafficked persons?
- Why do you use trafficked persons in your business?
- Do you know that you are committing a crime?

Try to build up a complete picture of the suspect's involvement in the crime and who the suspect's associates are.

Sample Interview Questions for Safe House Operators that Hide Victims

- Who owns the premises?
- How much are you paid to operate the safe house?
- How are you paid?
- Who pays for the utilities of the safe house?
- How often do you house trafficked persons?
- How do you communicate with people in the trafficking organization?
- How many mobile phones do you use to conduct your business?
What are the

15. INTERVIEWING SUSPECTS

phone numbers?

- Do you use the Internet to discuss the arrival or departure of trafficked persons?
- Do you use codes when discussing the arrival or departure of trafficked persons? If yes, what are the codes?
- Are the trafficked persons free to come and go without your permission?
- How often do you feed the trafficked persons?
- Who pays for the food?
- Where do the trafficked persons sleep?
- How often are they allowed to use the bathroom?
- Do you threaten the trafficked persons with violence?
- Are there any government officials assisting you to hide the trafficked persons?
- Do you take any money or belongings from the trafficked persons?
- Why do you house trafficked persons?
- Do you know that you are committing a crime?

Sample Interview Questions for possession/distribution of child pornography Suspects

- Who did you source these images off of?
- Where did you source these images?
- Why did you source these images?
- When did you source the images?
- How did you source the images?
- How many images do you have?
- What are the images of?
- How did you know where to source the images?
- Do you have any other images?

15. INTERVIEWING SUSPECTS

- Did you take any of these images yourself?
- Do you have an online presence?
- What email addresses do you have?
- Are you active on any chat groups?
- Do you use any encryption techniques when you obtain or distribute these images?
- How much did you pay for these images?
- How much do you charge for these images?
- How do you transfer money to purchase these images?
- How do you receive money for the sale of these images?
- What devices do you use to access the internet?
- Do you have any storage devices containing images of children?
- What is your computer login and password?
- What is the pin number/password for your mobile telephone?

Remember that the suspect should give his/her account of what has occurred.

These questions are not exhaustive and are not in any particular order. These questions can be used to identify elements of the account that have not been covered by the suspect or that need elaboration.



16. FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Suspects involved in sex trade crimes are engaged in criminal activity that requires the transfer of large sums of money to pay for criminal activities. When you are investigating a sex trade crime always ensure that you consider a parallel financial investigation for money laundering. These types of investigations can help you identify the sources of income for trafficking networks, paedophile groups and other actors within their network.

If you do not have the necessary skills to undertake these types of investigations speak with your supervisor or the relevant unit within your department. If you do not have this unit in your department speak with the relevant intelligence agency or Financial Investigations Unit. Steps that you can take to collect evidence of money laundering can occur at different times within your investigation. These include:

Suspect Profiling:

- Obtaining court orders or warrants for examination of financial records, including bank records, phone records and tax returns.
- Using services of a forensic accountant to examine financial records.
- Conducting business and property checks.

When conducting surveillance:

- What banks do they use?
- What credit cards do they use?
- What vehicles do they use?
- What properties do they control?

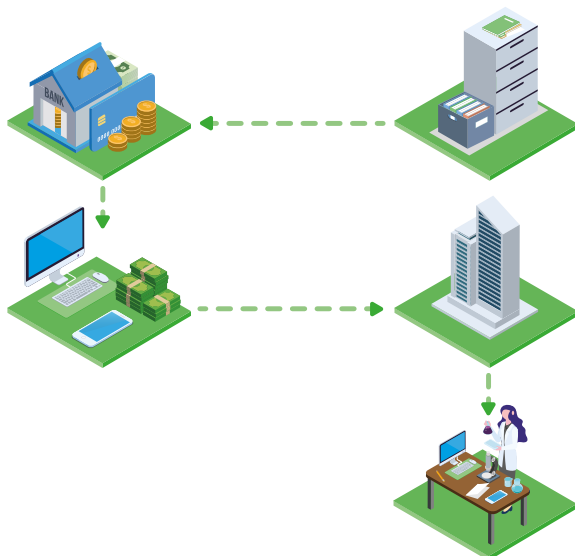
When searching a crime scene or suspect, look for:

- Mobile telephones.
- Bank documents.
- Property documents.
- Business records.
- Financial records.

- Computers.
- Cash.
- Receipt books/invoices.
 - Passports.
 - Digital recording devices.
- **When interviewing a suspect:**
 - What is their income and expenses?
 - What properties and assets do they own or lease and how were they funded?
 - What businesses or companies do they own?
 - Who do they work for?
 - What bank accounts do they have in your country or overseas?
 - Who is their accountant?

Also consider:

- Conducting forensic examination of digital devices.
- Are they using the services of money lenders or Hawala operators?



17. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Victims of the Sex Trade Crimes may be moved across international borders using fraudulent identification or whilst posing as imposters.

To legally enter a country, travellers will need to produce travel documentation, such as passports and visas. Examine travel documents to determine if they are authentic or counterfeit, fraudulently obtained or are being used by an imposter.

Documents can be examined in three ways:

- Visual examination – no equipment necessary
- Using basic equipment – using a magnifying glass or ultraviolet light
- Specialist examination – using specialist equipment in a laboratory

In the field, you may only have access to basic equipment to conduct the examination, so you should focus on some of the basic security features, which include:

- **Watermarks** – Can you see the watermark by holding the document to a light or using transmitted light?
- **UV bright paper** – Most secure documents, including passports, use paper that does not react to UV light. (Most photocopy paper has a brightener added which reacts to UV light.)
- **Photo substitution** – Have a look at the photograph on the bio page containing the document holder’s details. Check for signs of photo substitution.
- **Poor assembly** – Passports are made professionally using advanced production techniques. Does the document appear professionally constructed?
- **Printing quality** – Passports are produced using industrial printing methods that create solid lines and solid colours. Home or laser printers use a mix of four colours to simulate real colour, appearing as a series of dots or dashes under a magnifying glass.



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional Office for South East Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building, 3rd Floor B Block, Secretariat Building
Raj Damnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel. (66 - 2) 288 100 Fax (66 - 2) 281 2129 E-mail: fo.thailand@unodc.org
Website: www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific