



**FREE
A
GIRL**

RESCUES & AFTERCARE

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

The sexual exploitation of children is a serious problem that's closely linked to human trafficking. Every day, nearly 1 million children around the world become victims, treated like objects to be bought and sold. This takes a huge toll on their mental and physical well-being, with long-lasting effects on them, their families, and their communities.

Children can be forced into exploitation in many ways—through physical violence, threats, or being tricked. Factors like poverty, gender inequality, and conflicts make kids even more vulnerable. Sexual exploitation within the tourism industry is a growing concern, with children being targeted in popular travel destinations.

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

With the rise of digital technology, online sexual exploitation of children has increased. This includes the sharing of abusive content, online grooming, and live streaming of abuse. Often, online and offline exploitation go hand in hand—a child may be targeted online, and the abuse continues in real life. The content is then shared and spread online, making it even harder to stop.

WHAT DOES FREE A GIRL DO

Free a Girl works to rescue children from sexual exploitation, provide aftercare, and help them rebuild their lives through the Dream Fund and the School for Justice. We also focus on tackling exploitation within the tourism industry, targeting both victims and perpetrators. In addition, we offer legal support through the Legal Fund to help bring exploiters to justice. In this document, you'll find more details about our rescue operations and aftercare efforts.

OUR APPROACH

Free a Girl works closely with partner organizations and local authorities to rescue children from sexual exploitation. Since 2008, we have rescued almost 9,000 children from these horrific circumstances. Our investigative and rescue teams carry out rescue operations in four steps: identification, investigation, evidence, and ultimately the actual rescue. After the rescue operation the aftercare starts with: temporary housing, medical care, psycho social care and talent development.

1. IDENTIFICATION



Missing persons or suspicious situations

We receive signals through various means. One way is through reports of missing persons, where family members or local authorities approach our investigation teams. Based on the description of the potential victim, we conduct targeted searches. Additionally, we also receive signals from informants. These informants are important individuals within communities who have been trained to recognize signs of sexual child exploitation and human trafficking. They identify suspicious situations and pass this information on to our investigation teams.

2. INVESTIGATION:



Online Investigations and Undercover Fieldwork

To stay ahead of human traffickers, our teams invest in the latest investigative techniques. After thorough training in these techniques, they proceed to locate potential victims through undercover fieldwork and online analysis. The fieldwork takes place offline through undercover operations in locations such as brothels, massage parlors, private apartments, dance bars, and more. For online investigations, we analyze social media accounts and websites where children are being advertised, among other methods.

3. EVIDENCE



Analyzing evidence and discussing with local authorities

The investigation teams are responsible for analyzing and collecting evidence. This includes both the gathered material from online investigations and the photos, covert videos, and reports from undercover agents. This data is compiled into a comprehensive investigative report. The report contains not only information about potential child victims but also details about the location, escape routes, and other surveillance materials. This evidence is shared with local authorities and discussed in order to take appropriate action.

4. RESCUE



Planning and Executing a Rescue Operation

After completing the investigation and analyzing the evidence, the rescue teams work closely with local law enforcement to plan, coordinate, and execute rescue operations. These operations are conducted in secrecy to prevent traffickers and exploiters from relocating the children. During the rescue operations, the aftercare team is also present to ensure that the children feel safe and protected at all times.

5. IMMEDIATE TEMPORARY HOUSING AFTER RESCUE



Aftercare and child protection

During each rescue operation, the aftercare team is present, and the details of the case are discussed with the investigative and rescue teams. The aftercare team receives information about the number of children who may be rescued, including their ages and genders if available. In collaboration with the authorities, Free a Girl provides aftercare in government-run shelters or its own facilities, depending on local laws and context. After the rescue and in collaboration with the government, the children are taken in by the aftercare team. The case manager manages administrative tasks, documentation, and keeps contact with the family. Each child is assigned a unique code for anonymity, while the shelter staff ensures their safety.

6. MEDICAL CARE



Health risks and forensic evidence

Survivors carry the risk of sexually transmitted infections and potential physical injuries. Additionally, girls are at risk of unwanted pregnancy. Therefore, it is crucial that children have access to sensible and child friendly medical examinations after their rescue, even if they do not experience immediate symptoms. Furthermore, medical examinations play a significant role if the survivor chooses to press charges against the perpetrator, as heartbreaking as that may be. A specialized physician has the capacity to meticulously study the evidence and gently uncover indications that may point towards the exploiter. Throughout this process, the safety and needs of the survivor always take precedence.

7. PSYCHO SOCIAL CARE



Psychological support and healing process

It is understandable that victims of sexual child exploitation and human trafficking experience feelings of sadness, fear, and uncertainty. Within the aftercare team, survivors receive individual therapy from specialized psychologists and can find valuable support in group sessions with peers who have had similar experiences. The recovery process requires time, patience, and understanding, and not every child is at once ready to discuss their experiences. Some find expression through creative outlets such as drawing, dancing, and singing. Although the path to recovery is challenging, every child ultimately deserves the necessary support at their own pace, based on their unique needs and talents.

8. TALENT DEVELOPMENT



Personalized support through education and creativity

We always strive for a personalized approach, looking to discover the dreams the children had before they were trafficked. Within our aftercare team, children receive support from teachers in areas such as homework, life skills, and creative activities. Drawings and decorations can serve as outlets to help them connect with their emotions. Additionally, we collaborate with creative coaches who provide children with the opportunity to express their emotions through dance and singing. At the same time, we ensure that the children attend school and, depending on their age, offer vocational training.

Rescue by Name

With a "Rescue by Name," you fund the rescue and immediate aftercare of a child in one of Free a Girl's program countries. The rescue can be dedicated in the name of your company, yourself, your spouse, or one of your children. This allows you to make a direct and transparent contribution to Free a Girl's mission. After the rescue, you will receive a detailed report with information about the child and the rescue operation. The cost to rescue and provide immediate aftercare for one child is \$5,000.

CONTACT: INFO@FREEAGIRL.US

With your one-time or regular donation, we can make an immediate difference.
Unlock freedom, unfold potential. Become a freedom fighter.

SUPPORT OUR FIGHT!

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