

# OVER 1 MILLION CHILDREN

ARE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION TODAY <sup>1</sup>

*In addition, 300 million+ children under the age of 18 were affected by online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 2024, many of whom could face physical abuse.<sup>2</sup>*

Across the world, child exploitation and abuse are notoriously underreported—we acknowledge that the statistics and figures above are likely vastly smaller than reality and can become outdated at any moment.

For reference, only 6 in 10 countries around the world have national data on girls' experiences of sexual violence and only 1 in 6 countries have national data on boys' experiences of sexual violence.<sup>4</sup>



It's reported that files containing sexual images of children are reported **every second.**<sup>2</sup>



**ALMOST 60%  
OF THOSE TRAPPED**  
IN FORCED COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
ARE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC<sup>1</sup>



**NEARLY 80%  
OF THOSE TRAPPED**  
IN FORCED COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
ARE GIRLS OR WOMEN<sup>1</sup>

**\$346.7 BILLION**  
IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IN A SINGLE YEAR, MORE THAN AN ESTIMATED \$3.1 TRILLION IN ILLICIT FUNDS FLOWED THROUGH THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM... INCLUDING AN ESTIMATED **\$346.7 BILLION IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**<sup>3</sup>

# STATISTICS WE BELIEVE

## BACKGROUND

Statistics can be helpful, but—in the world of child sex trafficking, where there is a universal effort to hide in the dark—statistics vary wildly. In addition, studies show that the story of one young rescued girl can inspire more giving than the suffering of millions. With this in mind, we strongly encourage sharing only a few basic statistics representing conservative and credible estimates regarding human trafficking.

### Human Trafficking Statistics

- Over a million children are victims of sexual exploitation today.<sup>1</sup>
  - We say this because the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates there are 1.7 million children trapped in commercial sexual exploitation as of 2021<sup>1\*</sup>
  - In addition, **300 million+** children under the age of 18 were affected by online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 2024, many of whom could face physical abuse.<sup>2</sup>
    - It's reported that files containing sexual images of children are reported every second.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly four out of every five of those trapped in forced commercial sexual exploitation are girls or women.<sup>1</sup>
- 6 out of 10 (59.07%) of those trapped in forced commercial sexual exploitation are in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>1</sup>
- In a single year, more than \$3.1 trillion in estimated illicit funds flowed through the global financial system... including an estimated **\$346.7 billion in human trafficking**.<sup>3</sup>
- Across the world, child exploitation and abuse are notoriously underreported—we acknowledge that the statistics and figures above are likely vastly smaller than reality and can become outdated at any moment as datasets for these studies are not always replicated or updated after the study's completion.
  - For reference, only 6 in 10 countries around the world have national data on girls' experiences of sexual violence and only 1 in 6 countries have national data on boys' experiences of sexual violence.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* published by the International Labour Organization, 2021

<sup>2</sup> Source: *Childlight Global Child Safety Institute Annual Report*, 2024

<sup>3</sup> Source: *NASDAQ Global Financial Crime Report*, 2023

<sup>4</sup> Source: *UNICEF, When Numbers Demand Action Report*, 2024

\* We prefer to use the “over a million children” figure rather than the 1.7 million figure for the longevity of published pieces as the global estimate fluctuates from year to year.

**Human Trafficking** includes forced labour, other forms of trafficking and the trafficking of individuals in transit. **Sexual Exploitation** is the abuse of power, trust or someone's position of vulnerability to obtain or monetise sex acts.