



EDUCATE YOURSELF

The child sex trade affects **two million children** around the world each year. This multi-billion dollar industry encompasses several forms of exploitation, including child prostitution, child pornography, child sex trafficking, and child sex tourism.

It's not just an issue for developing countries.

- Over 300,000 American youth are at high risk for sexual exploitation.
- In the U.S., one in three teen runaways will be approached by a pimp within 48 hours.
- 25% of sex tourists outside the U.S. are American.
- The average age of entry into prostitution in the U.S. is 13 years.

Pia's Story*

Pia never had a chance to know her parents. Living a life of abject poverty, Pia only has memories of slum life in Metro Manila. At the age of eight, a woman befriended her with food and little gifts, and Pia soon found herself sold by the woman to foreigners. She cannot remember how many men abused her, but she does know that there were many.

Pia was so young when the abuse began that she did not realize she was a victim of sexual abuse. Every time that the woman brought Pia to a man, the woman received less than \$3, but she received \$85 when she brought Pia to a man in a hotel room. Once the abuse was over, Pia would go home and give the money to her grandmother, who assumed that the child had earned the money by begging tourists on the street.

One day, a German man brought Pia to a beach resort, where she stayed with him, his friend, and another girl. She and the other girl were with the foreigners at a restaurant when a concerned woman reported seeing two young girls with two adult foreigners. The police mounted an investigation, the two Germans were arrested, and the children were rescued.

Frightened and crying, Pia was brought to a children's home in Iloilo and was then brought to PREDA's children's home. Pia was then asked to travel to Germany to testify against the German abusers, who were brought to justice.

Pia, now 22, is giving back to the PREDA family by working as the project officer/facilitator for the PREDA home for boys in conflict with the law. She graduated from Subic Bay College in nursing and is taking a two year course in practical nursing. Pia shares her story and speaks out against commercial sexual exploitation in the hopes of protecting other children.

Minga knows that, like Pia, the children of the trade are real people with the power to positively impact our world. Join us in our *Let's Get Real Campaign* to end the child sex trade.

Go to www.MingaGroup.org to follow us on our Let's Get Real Road Trip.

*Story adapted from OneChild.

Search the Web!

www.ecpat.net: a complete online database that profiles all countries for their CSEC situation (click [here](#) for help navigating their site)

www.unicef.org/voyn: a section dedicated to youth in UNICEF, with information about CSEC

www.freethechildren.com: the Get Involved, Get Educated section has lots of facts about CSEC

www.one-child.ca: the OneChild website, with pictures, info, and a clip of their in-flight video

www.preda.org: the organization in the Philippines that built the rehabilitation center we funded

www.iabolish.com: a website focused on modern day slavery, one form of which is CSEC

www.thecode.org: the child sex tourism law and who has signed it

www.unicef.org/crc: the full *Convention on the Rights of the Child* document with optional protocols

www.slaverymap.org: a map that shows recent incidences of exploitation

Read!

Free the Children, by Craig Kielburger—a boy fights child labor, proving that children can change the world

Me To We: Finding Meaning in a Material World, by Craig and Marc Kielburger—a philosophy of life, leadership, and social activism

The Take Action! Series, by Craig and Marc Kielburger and Deepa Shankaran—social activism for teenagers, with how-to's, stories, and ways to start taking action

Passion and Power, by Father Shay Cullen—he describes building rehab centers in the Philippines

See a Movie!

It Takes A Child—the story of Craig Kielburger's trip to Asia and founding of Free the Children

Stolen Childhoods—a movie about child labor around the world, narrated by Meryl Streep

Born Into Brothels—a documentary about how children of prostitutes overcame poverty by learning the art of photography

Human Trafficking—an intense Lifetime film about the trafficking of women

Very Young Girls—a documentary about child prostitution in America

Playground—a powerful documentary about the child sex trade

The One-Child in-flight video, available at one-child.ca.

More Ideas for Educating Yourself!

- Form a CSEC research group. Each week have one group member present research on a CSEC-related topic, or bring in research materials and research together—have a party!
- Set up a research blog at which people can post and discuss findings, within the group or as a public forum.