

Child Trafficking. What does terre des hommes do?

Information

In all regions where the campaign is active, terre des hommes and its partners inform people about the extent of child trafficking. Numerous studies for different regions have been commissioned by terre des hommes which form the basis of all regional campaign activities. In most of the participating countries a broad media coverage has already been achieved.

Mobilisation

In many countries in the world the campaign invites people and organisations to take an active stance against child trafficking. One year after the official launch in October 2001 the campaign is already running in 24 countries all over the world. More than 400 NGOs have already been mobilised internationally to support these activities.

Intervention

terre des hommes and its partners are turning to authorities and decision-makers to develop and improve offers of help for trafficked children. Campaign partners have started to prepare legislative initiatives and attend international conferences.

Prevention

Educational campaigns are being conducted for the population, for example in South America, in order to prevent the sale of children there. In West Africa terre des hommes supports income generating projects so that young people at risk can plan their future in their own villages.

Support for victims

In Thailand, Cambodia and Nepal terre des hommes supports centres in which trafficked and sexually exploited young girls are looked after and provided with care. In West Africa and Albania exploited children are repatriated. This work will be intensified all over.

Child Trafficking. Everybody can do something!

Be informed

terre des hommes would be glad to send you further material on the topic of child trafficking. You will also find extensive information on our website www.stopchildtrafficking.org.

Join us

Participate in our signature campaigns or other events against child trafficking. terre des hommes would be glad to send you suggestions or put you in touch with the regional terre des hommes offices. Several thousands of volunteers already participate in our activities and programmes. Without this dedicated work, our goals simply could not be reached.

Support our work

The International Campaign needs people who identify with its aims and who use their influence to put child trafficking on the political agenda. To meet the challenges of the campaign additional financial help is also necessary. This support contributes to a better protection of children from traffickers and offers the victims better living prospects.



Together against child trafficking:
Public event in front of the Reichstag in Berlin.

Foto: S. Kaperlat

Who is terre des hommes?

terre des hommes is an aid organisation focussing on the rights of children. Its member organisations in different European countries and Canada support more than 800 projects located in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. These include school and training projects, initiatives for street children, working children, child prostitutes and refugee children. terre des hommes also runs food security and healthcare programmes.

These projects are generally proposed and run by local or national organisations. terre des hommes helps people to liberate themselves from oppression and economic hardship, providing financial, technical and methodological support. Children are especially encouraged to participate in the life of the community.

In their own countries and regions, the terre des hommes organisations raise funds to achieve their objectives. They bring to public attention the causes of underdevelopment and the rights of the child. This is achieved mainly through information campaigns. terre des hommes mobilises political will and advocates for appropriate government policies.

Contact

International Campaign against Child Trafficking
Leading Agency and Co-ordination
terre des hommes Germany e.V.
Ruppenkampstrasse 11a
D-49 084 Osnabrueck
Phone ++49-541-71 01-195
Fax ++49-541-70-72-33
eMail kinderhandel-kampagne@tdh.de
Internet www.stopchildtrafficking.org



Bestell-Nr. 000.2144.00
I. A., 8.000, sec - Rautenberg - Gedruckt auf 100% Recycling-Papier



terre des hommes



Children – not for sale!

Traffickers purchase young girls from Nepal for 10 dollars and supply them to brothels.

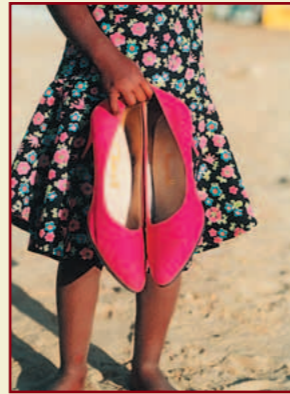
Stop Child Trafficking. **The international campaign.**

Children have become a much sought-after commodity in the international market. They fall victim to people who are only focussed on one thing: profit. A great deal of money can be earned through children – whether as prostitutes, plantation workers, maids or beggars. For this the children themselves pay a high price: they pay with their trust, their health and often even with their lives. But the demand continues to grow: in the meanwhile, trafficking in human beings has become almost as lucrative as drug trafficking.

Since October 2001 the International Federation terre des hommes has been appealing to the public and decision makers with their International Campaign against Child Trafficking. People should be made aware of how children are being marketed and exploited all over the world.

In South East Asia, India, Latin America, in Southern and Western Africa and in Central Europe terre des hommes co-ordinators are conducting the campaign in their regions along with local partners. The common goal is to provide better protection for children and to ensure that the offenders are prosecuted effectively.

Children are not for sale!



Profiteering from sex:
The demand for young girls is on the rise.
Foto: C. Kropke

An amount of 20,000 dollars or more is paid for an adoptive child from Central America or Eastern Europe.

Child Trafficking. **This is how it works.**

The International Campaign is committed to fight against child trafficking as one of the worst crimes against human dignity. It bases its work on the definition given by the UN-Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) as formulated in the ‘Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children’:

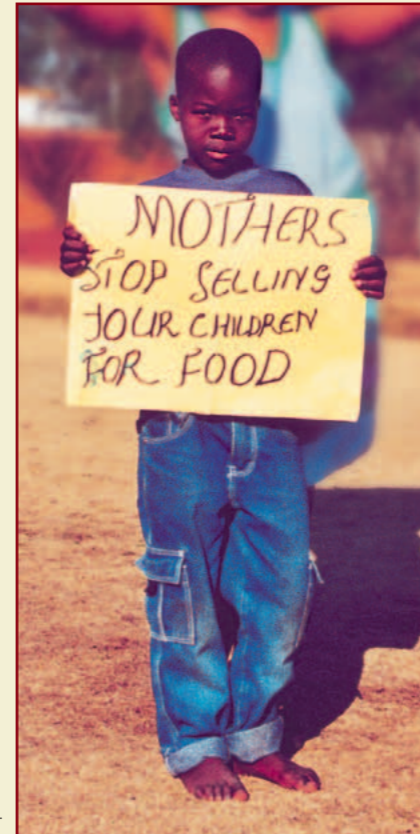
Child trafficking can be said to exist from the time a person below 18 years, with his or her consent or without, is transferred from one place to another. This can happen legally or illegally, within a country or beyond the borders of his or her country. Intermediaries are involved in most cases. The main objective of child trafficking is enrichment. Children are exploited and constrained to work by force or deceit. They are sold for motives such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, utilisation in illegal activities, commercial adoption or forced marriage.

Child traffickers target young girls and boys who live in poverty or difficult family situations. Defenceless and intimidated by their strange surroundings, they cannot fight against their exploiters. They are made to submit with force if they attempt to defend themselves.

Every year around 200,000 young boys and girls in Western and Central Africa fall victim to child trafficking.

Child Trafficking. **What should be done?**

Child trafficking destroys the lives of hundreds of thousands of young girls and boys all over the world. The exploiters have an easy job: most people are not even aware of the phenomenon of child trafficking. Offenders often are not punished since there are few effective laws.



Children for food:
Due to economic hardship parents sell their sons and daughters.
Foto: B. Scharlowski



Risk factor poverty:
Children who fight for their survival are an easy prey for traffickers luring them with promises of a better life.
Foto: T. Dom

Hence the campaign makes the following demands:

Child trafficking must officially be recognised as a crime. Governments should ratify international agreements on the protection of children and rigorously implement them. This for instance includes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention 182 of the International Labour Organisation against the Worst Forms of Child Labour and also the ‘Hague Convention’ on adoption across borders.

The police force and judiciary must refrain from prosecuting young boys and girls, who were forced into illegal activities, as criminals. Trafficked children are victims, not offenders. They must be granted protection, care and free legal assistance.

States should set up reporting offices both on the national as well as on the international level so that missing and trafficked children can be registered.

Trafficked children should receive compensation for the misfortune they have suffered.

The authorities must guarantee them a safe stay or a voluntary and safe return to their native country, respecting the requirements of the Child Rights Convention.

