Child Prostitution in the Philippines

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*SOME FACTS*

- There are four hundred to five hundred thousand people being prostituted in the Philippines, most of which are women or young girls. But prostitution also affects children, both boys and girls, older males, and transvestites.

- A recent study showed that seventy-five thousand children are being prostituted in the Philippines.

- Children from ages eleven to fifteen reported that their relatives introduced them to prostitution.

- Filipino men are the main users of Filipinas in prostitution.
In 1998, a Philippine Adventure Tour, would cost one thousand six hundred and forty-five dollars, where a man can purchase a prostitute for as little as twenty-four US dollars, and Allan Gaynor, the owner and operator of the tour, promised men they would never be alone on this trip and would recommend to have sex with a different girl everyday, sometimes two if they could handle it.

Many tourists go to the Philippines for the sex alone. They know they can get good sex at a cheap rate.

Every year thirteen thousand Australians visit Angeles City in the Philippines, which is a center for prostitution surrounding the former Clark U.S. Air Force base.
SEX TOURISM CONTINUED..

- Tourists mostly from Australia, the United States and Great Britain use these prostitutes. Like it or not, these tourists engage in sexual acts with mostly underage girls that work at bars or on streets.

- These prostitution tourists and the sex tours given throughout the Philippines cause child prostitution to remain alive.

- Tourists pay a certain amount to the prostitute, and the prostitutes pay a bar fine so they are able to leave the bar with a guy or to walk the streets for business. The fine is usually about twelve hundred pesos.
MORE FACTS

- The Philippines ranks fourth in the world when it comes to child prostitution.
- Three thousand three hundred and sixty six more children are forced every year into prostitution.
- Prostitution is not a business, it is an industry in the Philippines.

THESE BOYS WERE VICTIMS OF CHILD PROSTITUTION.
WHY DO CHILDREN BECOME PROSTITUTES?

- One main reason for child prostitution is their living conditions. Most of these children live in impoverished conditions in semi-rural or urban conditions and sometimes are victims of sexual abuse at home. They run away and become desperate, and in turn they become child and young adult prostitutes.

- Often, parents do not have jobs and cannot find work so they force their children into prostitution to support the family.

- Poverty pushes prostitution.
CAN THEY ESCAPE THE SEX TRADE?

- It is said that many of these children never truly rehabilitate.
- They are psychologically damaged and the longer they spend being a prostitute the harder it is to overcome the trauma.
- A street educator named Louie Orpea, from the Philippines, says even if these children get out of prostitution many of them catch the common STD Gonorrhea. Some would try to avoid getting it by drinking water with TIDE detergent.
- They may face fertility and pregnancy problems, malnourishment, and tuberculosis. The sexually transmitted disease known as AIDS or HIV, is becoming a very serious threat to these children.
- Many go through the depression that molested children go through.
In Cebu City, there were fifteen hundred registered prostitutes in 1993, which rose to forty five hundred in 1997.

In Davao City there were eighty prostitution establishments in the year of 1993 and by 1997 there were one hundred thirty five.

Also in Davao City, in 1993 there were eight hundred and sixty eight registered prostitutes and by the first half 1996 there were one-thousand five-hundred twenty-five.
ANGELES CITY in the Philippines

- Considered the sex capital, and also known as “the area.”
- In this area alone, seventy five percent of five hundred prostitutes are children.
- There is a website called ClubHombre.com, which is a registered website for sex tourism around the world, stating that Angeles City has the most satisfying and cheap sex around. The Filipina women are friendly and “will treat you as a boyfriend the entire time you are with her.”
- Even while the US Clark Air Force Base was in use, these GI’s referred to the twelve thousand bar girls as LBFM better known as “Little Brown F**king Machines.”
These are prostitutes laughing with each other as they walk down Fields Avenue in Angeles City. They call out the name Joe to every male, pertaining to the soldiers or GI “Joes” that had been there when the U.S bases were still in use.

Men pick up women off the street in this sex infested city.

Men from Australia enjoying the company of a few women at the Blue Boar Inn. They visit Angeles City twice a year and they say that the “journey keeps them young.”
SO CALLED “BENEFITS” of PROSTITUTION

- Most of these Philippine towns are pro-prostitution, so it makes it easier for prostitution to continue.

- Some of the parents and even the mayor, Augusto Kamatoy, will discuss the economic benefits that these children receive from their patrons. Some including: payment for schooling, new clothing, pocket money, and even funded civic projects. Some children will flaunt these things in trying to get other children to join the sex trade.

- It has become “very easy money,” because sex will never go out of style.

- The emphasis on labor export to support the balance of payment deficits has contributed to the trafficking of Filipinas to Japan.
There have been many cases where police officers and public officials have sexually assaulted and exploited underage prostitutes.

The Congressman Romeo Jalosjos was charged with raping a twelve year old girl. He was the first government official to be charged on sexual accounts.

A former Representative of Quezon, Manolet Lavides took part in the prostituting of four young girls at Novaliches High School.

In 1997, the Mayor of Angeles City, Edgardo Pamintuan was found to be involved in the case of a sixteen year old model that was being prostituted by her talent manager, Jojo Veloso.
HISTORY OF “COMFORT WOMEN”

- During World War Two, the number of “comfort women” that were among Asian descent falls between eighty and two hundred thousand.
- Of the one hundred and sixty nine comfort women survivors, more than half of them were under the age of twenty.
- An enormous demand of prostitution had been established during the Vietnam War and since then by the presence of US military bases.
- Many of these service men had temporary wives while in the Philippines, fathered a child and then fled.
Beginning in 1931 to 1932 and throughout wars, the Japanese Government recruited women and young girls by force for their sexual pleasure in the Japanese Military.

They often didn’t have adequate food or medical care and lived in very poor living conditions while in servitude.

These women were often beaten and would be used by forty to fifty men a day, everyday.
Finally passed in 2003, the Philippines is the first country in Southeast Asia to come up with an act to protect women and children against trafficking, prostitution, pornography and involuntary forced labor.

Penalties can lead from six years to life imprisonment and fines of up to two million pesos.

For those who interact or buy the services of prostitution are usually penalized for a first offense with six months of community service and a fine of fifty thousand pesos and for second and succeeding offenses face imprisonment of one year and a fine of one hundred thousand pesos.

Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration are mandated by RA9208 to come up with programs for Filipinos who are and have been trafficked overseas and for the safety and prevention of this to further happen.
The trafficking law is for both national and international efforts. Which means that departments such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Justice, Bureau of Immigration, Philippine National Police, Department of Interior and Local Government, and local government units are also mandated to initiate programs for those victims, and for the prevention of anymore trafficking.
In 1999 the United States introduced the Purple Rose Campaign. It is an international operation that aims at creating opposition to the prostitution and sexual exploitation of women and children.

ReachOut International Foundation is a reproductive health center that includes a clinic, pharmacy, laboratory and an education program.

Philippine Children's Fund of America is the most widely funded program in America. It is a stable and viable community that upholds the rights, welfare and strong desire for achievement of Filipino families, especially the children.

Bahay Bata Center in Angeles City, Philippines is an institution that takes care of street children, orphans and abused children. It was founded by a few local businessmen and it provides children with a home, education and some sort of spiritual guidance for them now and for the future. Rotary Club Clark Centennial helps raise funds to keep this place running.

Ahon Sa Kalye is a program that was launched in 2002, which is a totally non-profit and non-governmental program. It is a half-way home for problematic children with the law and street children and gives assistance to those abused or sexually exploited. They also have medical and educational programs for these children.
PROSTITUTION

Pursuing a client.

Waiting for clients.

Asian prostitutes in a brothel.

Very young impoverished teen prostitute in Manila, Philippines.
CONCLUSION

- Prostitution has been around for many decades, starting mostly during the Vietnam War. The Philippines had many victims including women and children, becoming sex servants and working with sex feints to try and support their families. To those patrons, it is a form of entertainment and a good time, but they are degrading the lives and worth of those victims who do it only for the money. Much of the people living in impoverished conditions do not have the simple things such as food and water, let alone a good paying job. Sexuality is different all over the world, but many don’t choose to start at such a young age, and after all, many of them could never overcome the trauma. If so many government officials and tourists are causing this demand, the sex trade industry will never end. Hopefully with new efforts finally being put forward, it will aid in the helping to end child prostitution in the Philippines and in other places around the world.

"There has been no greater mass crime that I know of . . . that has been committed against modern women, modern-day women, in the 20th century."- Brig. Gen. Vorley M. Rexroad (Ret.), January 17, 2001.
REFERENCES


