

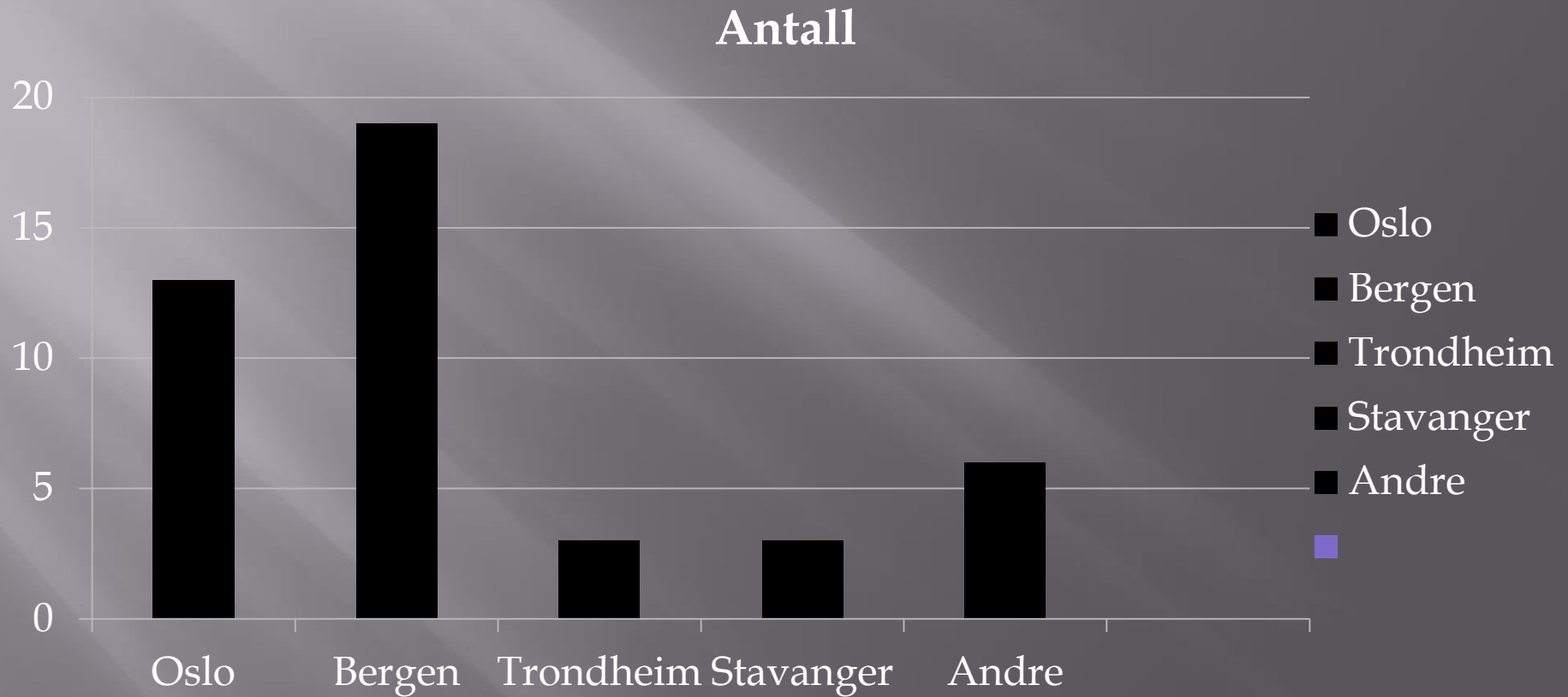


**Challenges for the  
police and prosecution  
authorities in  
identifying and  
protecting child  
victims of trafficking.  
Best practice and  
lessons learned from  
cases in Norway**

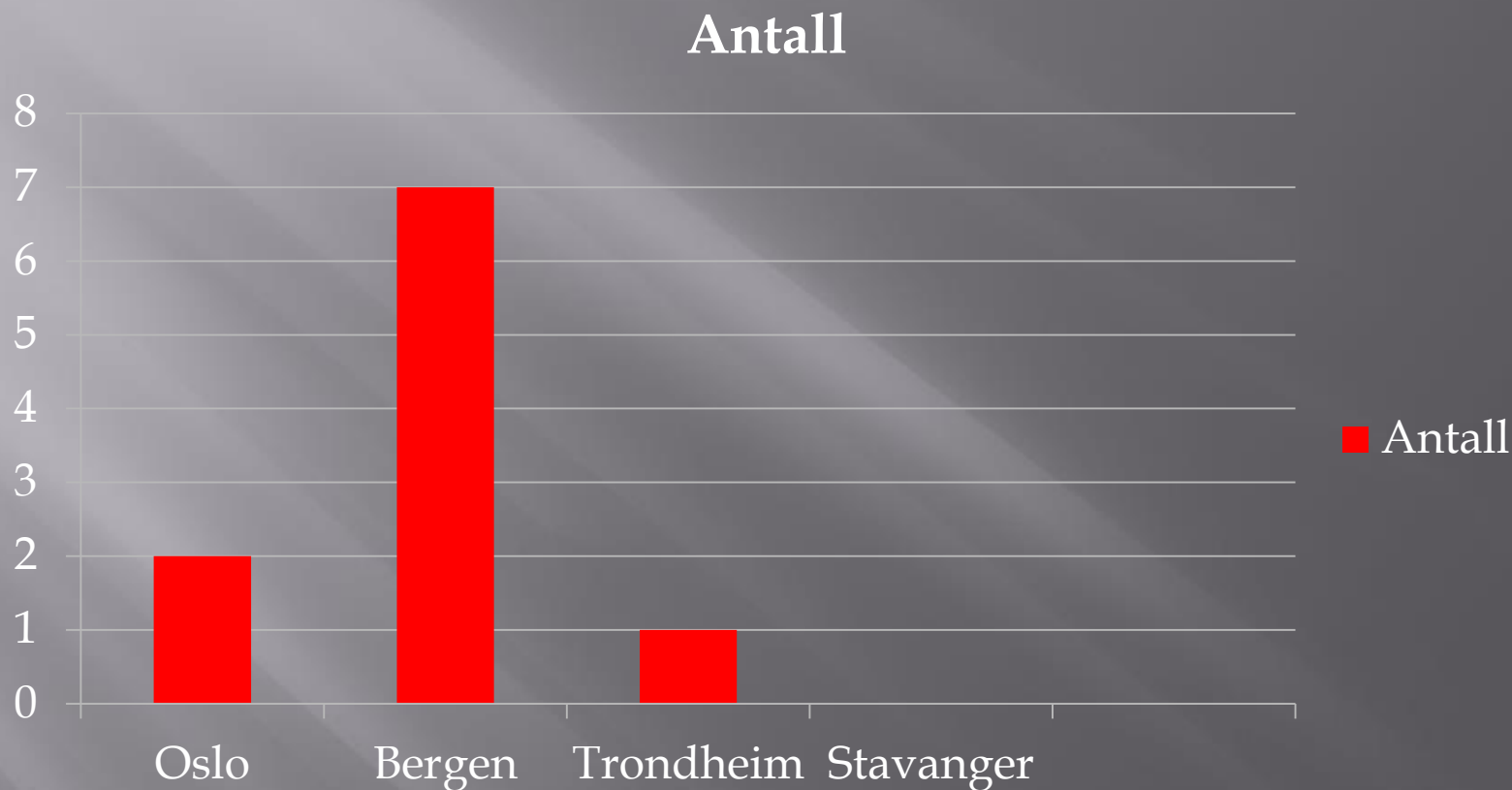
Rudolf Christoffersen  
Public Prosecutor  
Member of GRETA

# Convictions THB

## 2005 - 2017



# Convictions – Child trafficking



# The most common forms of trafficking in Children are for the purposes of:

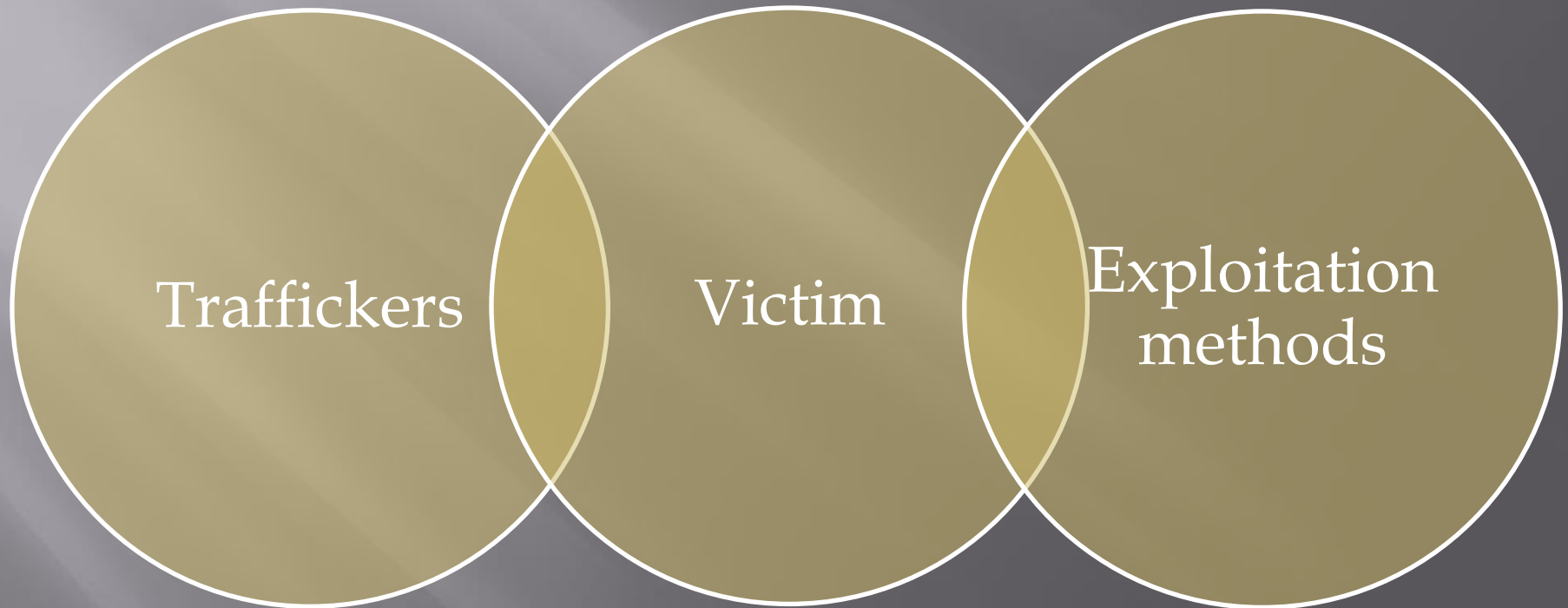


- ❑ Prostitution
- ❑ Child sex tourism
- ❑ Pornography
- ❑ Begging
- ❑ Drug distribution and other criminal activities
- ❑ Forced marriage / Child marriage
- ❑ Illegal adoption
- ❑ Trafficking in human organs





# Identification requires knowledge



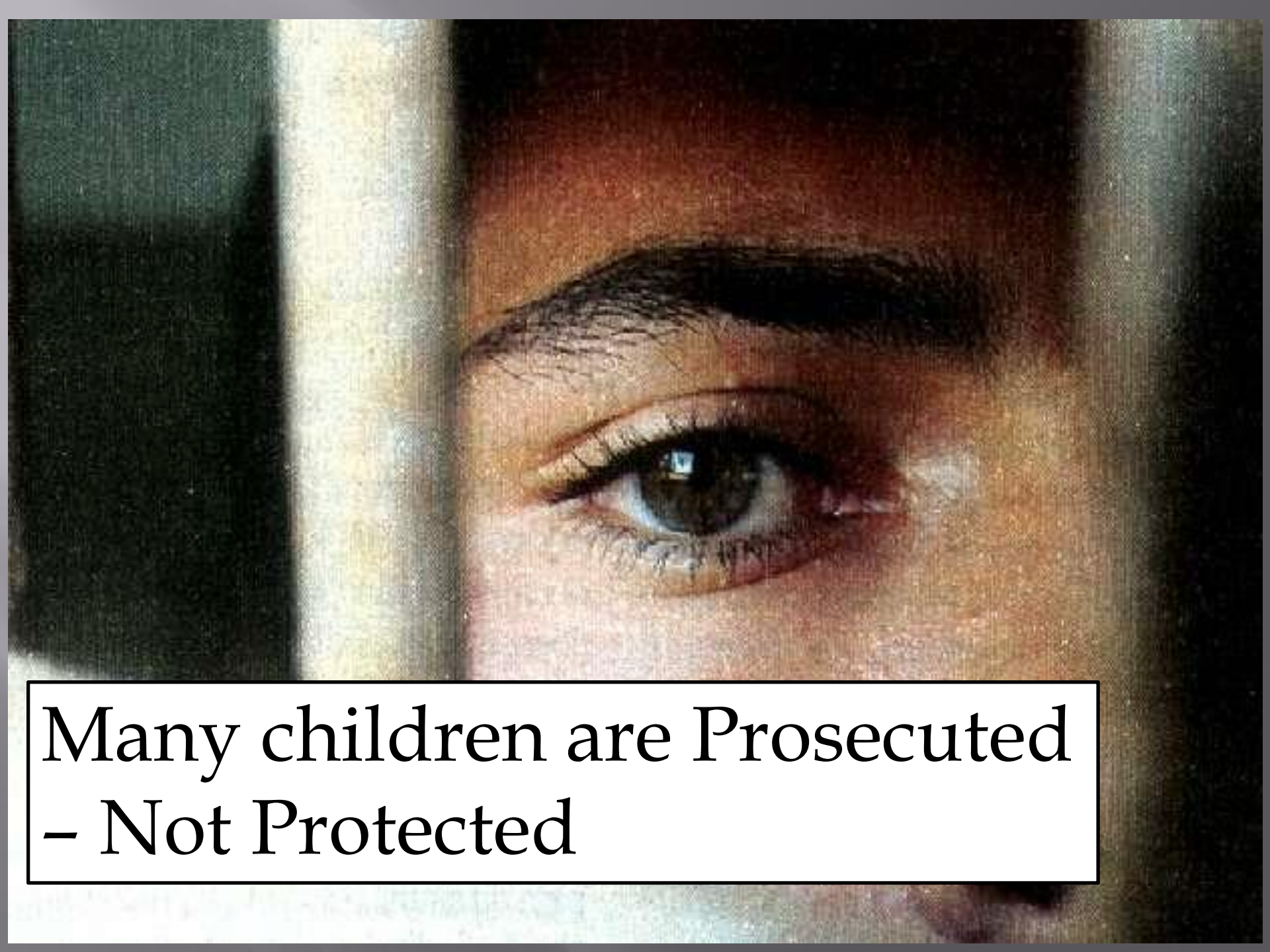


**If we don't know what to look for... – We don't see it...**





Thief or a victim  
of trafficking ?



Many children are Prosecuted  
– Not Protected







Aggrieved parties often deny that they are being subjected to violence, force or other forms of coercion because they fear reprisals against themselves or their families in the country of origin. ....In spite of the other evidence in the case, NN has denied being a victim of human trafficking or involved in prostitution.

Judgment of the Gulating Court of Appeal of  
14.12.2009

**There is a tendency in the police and prosecution authorities to only focus on the victims that are willing to cooperate with the police.**



# Identify the crime

*"Is it a case of trafficking when a child is selling flowers on the street?"*







Children are  
often used as  
begging tools





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## Migrant crisis: Dutch alarm over child brides from Syria

By Anna Holligan  
BBC News, The Hague

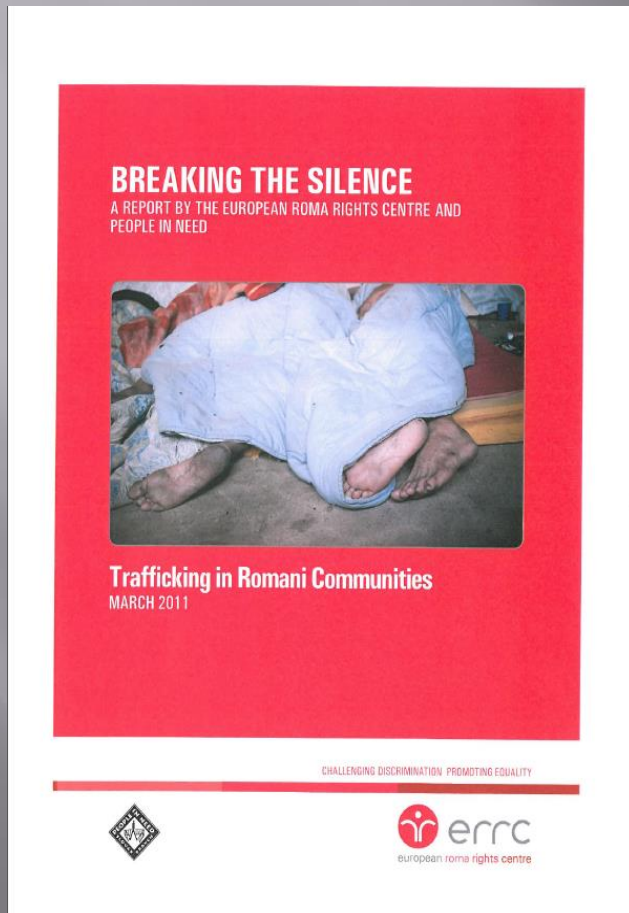
🕒 20 October 2015 | [Europe](#)



Child marriage is outlawed by several international agreements

# Child marriages in the Roma Communities

- ▣ There is often a connection between child marriage and trafficking in the Roma communities.
- ▣ This practice greatly increases the vulnerability of the children involved to become victims of trafficking as child marriages create the conditions for serial human rights abuses.



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## 10,000 refugee children are missing, says Europol


The EU's criminal intelligence agency warns pan-European gangs are targeting minors for sex abuse and slavery



# Vulnerable missing children exploited by drug gangs, report finds

By Neil Puffett | 23 July 2015



 Print

**Runaway and missing children are being exploited by criminal gangs in order to expand inner city drug networks into county towns, a study has found.**



*Researchers found that gangs are using children who have run away to expand their drug-dealing operations. Picture: NTI*

**involvement and young people going missing**, which calls for gang-involved young people who go missing from home or care to be treated as victims rather than criminals.

Frances Flaxington, strategic director at Catch22, said similar to victims of child sexual exploitation, young people identified in this report are likely to be widely under-reported when missing and when they are reported, they often receive a criminal, rather than a safeguarding

Researchers uncovered evidence that gangs are setting missing children up in flats for weeks at a time to sell drugs in provincial areas.

There was also evidence that young people in children's homes, pupil referral units and schools, who do not have a criminal record, are targeted by gangs to set up so-called "county lines" because they are less likely to attract police attention.

The study – conducted by charities **Catch 22** and **Missing People** – found that children are left in unsafe environments and, in some cases, have their phones taken away from them so they are completely isolated.

The findings feature in the report ***Running the Risks: The links between gang-***

# The perception of a 'victim'

- ▣ Stereotype perceptions of a 'victim' strongly guide the identification and related proceedings:

- Experience of extreme violence
- National and ethnic origin
- Gender
- Age

→ Important to overcome stereotypes



# **Lessons learned from cases in Norway**



# Child Trafficking case from Kristiansand

 **Sørlandet** 

TV Radio Tips Feature

## Foreldre siktet for å tvinge sønn (14) til å tigge

Et rumensk foreldrepar er av Kristiansand tingrett varetektsfengslet i fire uker, siktet for menneskehandel og for å tvinge sin 14 år gamle sønn til å stjele.



I sentrum av Mandal tigget 14-åringen. [Vis mer](#)

# Charge sheet

In September 2017, they exploited N.N, dob.15.09.2002 by forcing him to travel to Norway from Romania to commit thefts and beg on the street. N.N. was a minor and could not speak Norwegian.

# Kristiansand City Court

The court finds that the accused may be suspected of trafficking in human beings.....The accused has given various explanations to the police about the purpose of the trip to Norway.

.....The court also refers to the daughter's explanation to the police in August 2016. The daughter should then have indicated that she were forced to beg.

Retten finner at siktede med skjellig grunn kan mistenkes for menneskehandel. Retten har ved denne vurderingen lagt særlig vekt på observasjoner av fornærmede, som er siktedes sønn, i Mandal, sammenholdt med siktedes avvikende forklaring til politiet om formålet med fornærmedes opphold i Norge, og hva fornærmede faktisk foretok seg i landet, sammenholdt med de faktiske omstendigheter.

Retten viser også til datterens forklaring til politiet i forbindelse med at hun var etterlyst i august 2016. Datteren skal den gang ha opplyst at hun ble tvunget til å tigge, hvilket er egnet til å underbygge mistanken mot siktede også i herværende sak.





PÅ LIDOHJØRNET: Mannen kjørte en jente (16) til Bergen. Trolig s... 

## Politiet mener de reddet jente (16) fra å prostituere seg på Lidohjørnet

Mannen kjørte to kvinner fra Romania til Bergen. Her solgte de sex. I bilen var også en jente (16). Nå er sjåføren dømt til fengsel i to år og fem måneder.

Av **PER LINDBERG**

5. juli 2017 16:54, oppdatert 21:17



HER: I dette huset i Bergen skal en 16 år gam...

[Les hele](#)

## Menneskehandel-saken i Bergen: Får ikke fengsle siktede

Kristian Aaser og Jenny-Linn Lohne

13.02.18 19:35 | Oppdatert: 13.02.18 22:24

**Politiet fikk ikke medhold i sin begjæring om fengsling av de fire personene som er siktet for menneskehandel med en 16 år gammel jente.**



# Roma child thieves in Bergen.





Begging  
Shoplifting  
Selling fake gold  
items.

What did the girl tell the police ?

I am not a victim!

You are Stupid !

I have no problem!

What is wrong with the  
police in this country?

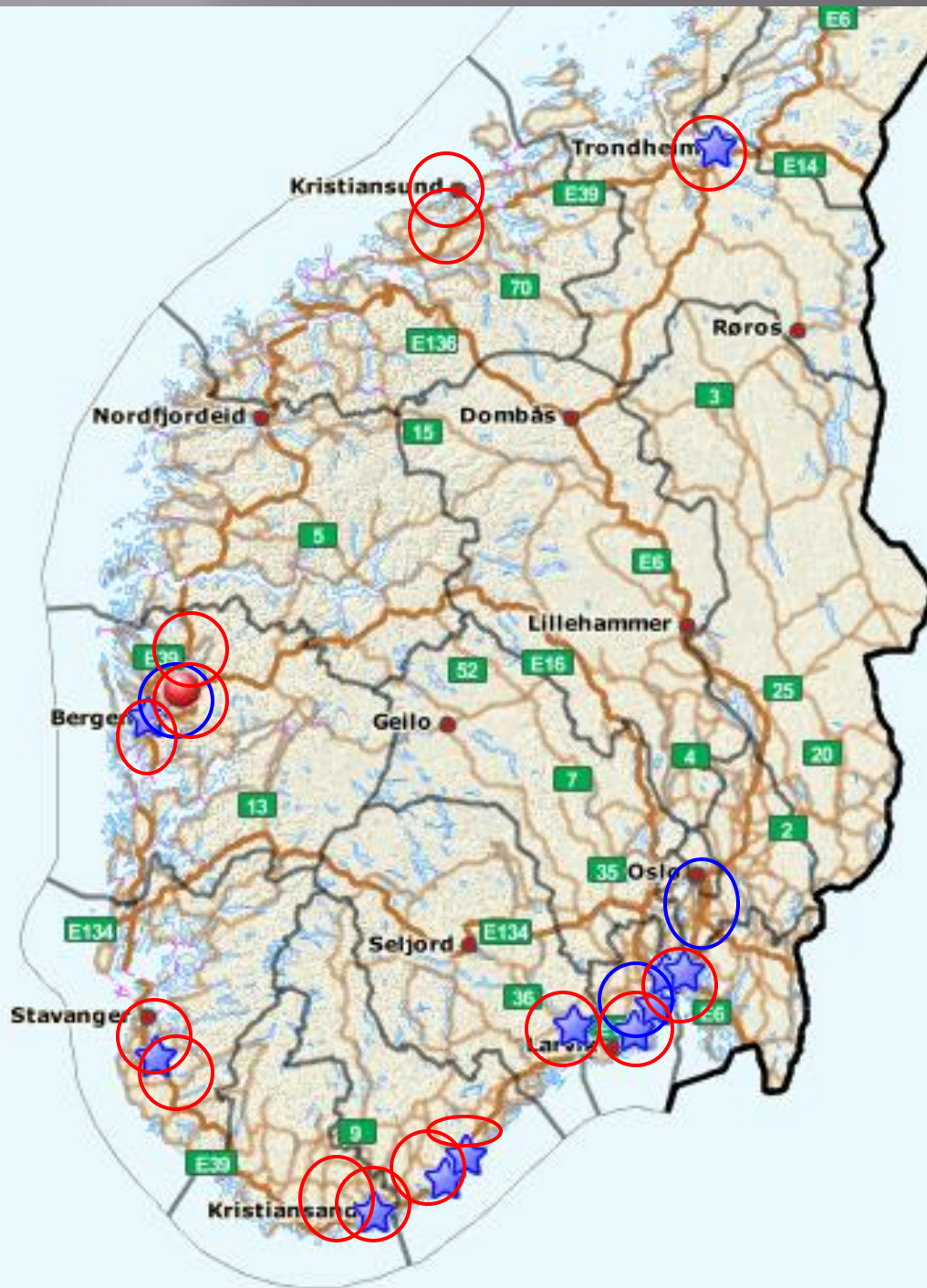
When can I leave?



13 years old girl was taken care of by the child protection in Sweden in september 2010.

# Shoplifting in Solluntuna





13 year old  
girl arrested  
over 30  
times in 15  
months.

Begging

Shoplifting

Selling fake  
gold items

What do you think happened  
when she was arrested ?



*”This is how the gypsies live their  
lives, and we cannot save the  
world”*





Would it made any difference if the children were Norwegian ?



# Are the rights of the child negotiable ?



- In the case of Roma children, their involvement in begging, other street based activities or petty crime is often perceived according to common stereotypes as a "cultural issue" and a "personal choice" that is not condoned but tolerated.

Council of the Baltic Sea States  
Child Centre, Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk

**CHILDREN TRAFFICKED FOR EXPLOITATION  
IN BEGGING AND CRIMINALITY:  
A challenge for law enforcement  
and child protection**

A CBSS Project in Lithuania, Poland, Norway and Sweden  
10 February 2013



**What was the social services answer to the police when the police asked for information?**

**Why the case led  
to prosecution**

# **Evidence - human trafficking**

1. Statements given from the children
2. Statements given from the defendants
3. Police register information from Norway and Sweden detailing previous criminal convictions
4. Witness statements taken in Romania
5. Search undertaken within the homes of the defendants.
6. Information from Western Union in Norway and Sweden



## Statement given from the Children

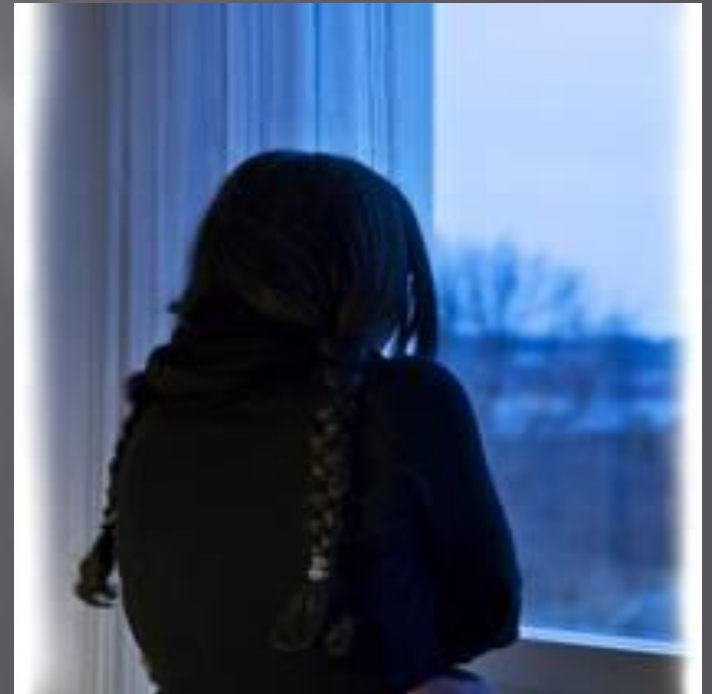
*"I did not have nights. I did not have nights where I could sleep. I slept maybe from four o'clock to five o'clock in the morning.*

*After stealing and begging we came home, we made dinner, then I had to do the washing up and clean the car. Afterwards I had to sell sex at ten o'clock at night".*

- **Police:** "Why did you not go home to Romania?"
- **Girl 13 :** *"Who should I go with ?"*
- **Police:** *"Have you told anyone that you were beaten and raped ?"*
- **Girl 13:** *"Who should I tell? I have no mother or father to tell what happened".*

Police: What are your thoughts  
about the future ?

*" I wish to go to school. And I wish to  
be a normal child"*





What did the accused say in  
police interview and in court ?

It is not trafficking . It is the way we  
live our lives...

# The Conviction

- ▣ 3 men and 3 women convicted for:
  - Human trafficking
  - Accessory to rape of two girls
  - Forced marriage
  - Money laundering



That the basis of the accused's exploitation of the children, lies within the Romani culture, does not undermine the charges against the accused.



Norwegian legislation does not allow reference to tradition, or affects on the charges against the accused, when a child is exploited into forced labour.



The case was built on a strong collaboration between the police, prosecutors and child protection services, and involved bilateral cooperation with the authorities in the countries of origin of the perpetrators and victims.





# Commercial online child sexual exploitation

- According to Europol live streaming of abuse for payment is no longer an emerging trend but an established reality.

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## INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACTION LEADS TO RESCUE OF 22-MONTH OLD ROMANIAN SEX ABUSE VICTIM

The Hague, The Netherlands

25 February 2015

Swift international police cooperation has led to the arrest of a Romanian man suspected of sexually-abusing his own two-year-old daughter, filming the abuse and posting the child abuse material (CAM) online. Romanian law enforcement authorities have rescued the child.

The case began when the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received a report of suspected online child sexual abuse, submitted via their CyberTipline<sup>1</sup>. These reports are continuously triaged to help ensure children in imminent danger get first priority. Analysts at the NCMEC reviewed the report,



The usual «crime scene» does not exist





# **Lack of knowledge and experience in this kind of THB in The Police and among Prosecutors**

- ❑ Focusing on the sexual abuse, not the THB.
- ❑ Difficulties in detecting traffickers and victims.
- ❑ **The Police is focusing on the national dimension of investigations.**

# Operation Dark Room

- ❑ Dark Room is a police operation in Western Police District in Norway.
- ❑ The project started in January 2016.
- ❑ The project works to stop child sexual abuse.
- ❑ It started with two local criminal cases set in context with cases carried out by the FBI against the website "Playpen" on the dark web.



# Case from Bergen, Norway:

A 65 years old was convicted for THB and rape of children on the Internet. The children lived in The Philippines.



REDDET: Her tar politi og barnevern hånd om seks barn som ble funnet i huset der Kripos mener det ble direkteoverført overgrep til en bergenser (65). FOTO: KRIPOS/NBI



## - Kjøper overgrep mot barn for under hundre kroner

Direkteoverføring på nettet gjør det enklere å skjule spor.

LIV SOLLI OKKENHAUG

Publisert 26.apr. 2016 12:30 Oppdatert 26.apr. 2016 12:46

En 65-åring fra Bergen er siktet for voldtekt og grov menneskehandel, etter at politiet mener han har betalt for å få direkteoverført overgrep mot filippinske barn på nettet.



Several new cases are currently under investigation.



# The Judgement

The court has concluded that the accused is guilty for indictments under paragraph 3. It is he who has aided in the exploitation as mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2. He was aware that the victims received payment, and that this was a prerequisite from his side. He was aware that the underage victims were from underprivileged families, and that they carried out the sexual services because they were dependent on payment from him. Family members..... who have assisted have received significant sums of money, in the range of kr. 200 000, (20 000 euro) between 2013 and 2015. He has said that his reasoning for making the videos was to gain contact with underage Norwegian girls, and the videos were used for this purpose.

# 6 females, 1 boy rescued from cybersex den in Bacolod

🕒 Friday, July 14, 2017

👤 By MARCHEL P. ESPINA



BACOLOD. Authorities rescue six minors and a female adult who were exploited online at home in Barangay 26, Bacolod City, on Thursday, July 13. (Contributed Photo)

SIX minors, including a two-year-old boy, and a female adult were rescued from a suspected cybersex den at Barangay 26 in Bacolod City, on Thursday, July 13.

# A Victim-Centered Approach to Trafficking in children





**”I will only  
tell my story  
if you care  
about it.....”**

Thank You.

Rudolf Christoffersen  
Prosecutor