

Statistics on Children at Risk

Abortion

Worldwide

40,000,000 children are aborted every year worldwide. (United Nations)

1 in 4 children are raised in debilitating hunger

11-13 million children are AIDS orphans in South Africa

12 million children raised as refugees.

If we spent one second naming all the street children in the world it would take 3 years to name them all.

500,000 children are illegally imported into western Europe for the purpose of prostitution.

Kenya

In Kenya abortion is a major health threat to women - including girls as young as 10. A third of maternal deaths in 1995 were caused by abortion. (FEBA Radio Publication)

United Kingdom

One in five children conceived in the United Kingdom is aborted. (Movement for Christian Democracy)

3,546,681 abortions were carried out in England and Wales between 1968 and 1991. (Office of Populations Censuses and Surveys)

7 in every 100 girls aged 15 to 19 become pregnant. One third of them have abortions. ("The Independent", 26 October 1993)

Education

Worldwide

Two thirds of the estimated 130 million children in the world who have no access to primary education are girls. (UNICEF, Grant J., "Closing the Gender Disparity in Education: A Human Right, A Social Gain", Address to the NGO Committee on UNICEF, 21 April 1992)

United Kingdom

In 1991 one in five 21 year olds was innumerate and one in seven was illiterate. (Ann Condy, Family Policy Studies Centre, 1994)

Health issues

Worldwide

More than 17,000,000 children die each year of starvation and malnutrition. (United Nations)

The infant mortality rate per thousand is 7 in Northern Europe, 51 in South America and 108 in Eastern Africa. (United Nations Population Fund)

The United Nations Children's Fund has calculated that money spent by Western Europeans on cigarettes every 6 months - 14.5 billion pounds sterling - would effectively control all childhood diseases, halve the rate of child malnutrition, bring clean water to all communities,

and provide most of the children of the world with a basic education. ("The Independent", 11 June 1993)

According to World Health Organisation estimates, 18 million adults and 1.5 million children have been infected with HIV. (Sue Armstrong and John Williamson, "Action for children Affected by AIDS, Programme Profiles and Lessons Learned", WHO/UNICEF Joint Document, 1994)

2 million children die each year because they have not been immunised. (World Vision)

Bangladesh

The under 5 mortality rate in Bangladesh is 180 per thousand compared to the UK figure of 9. (World Vision)

Over 30% of one-year old children have not been immunised against measles, polio, diphtheria or tetanus. (World Vision)

Each year diarrhoea causes the death of 300,000 children. (World Vision)

United Kingdom

More than 160 babies have been born addicted to purified cocaine in one year in the United Kingdom. ("Sunday Times", 10 July 1994)

28% of first time smokers are under 10 years old. (Health Education Survey, 1989)

20 to 30% of the children of HIV positive mothers become infected themselves. Their average life span is less than two years. (Christian AIDS Charity - ACAC, quoted in "The Christian Democrat", October 1994)

By the age of 15 years, 24% of all girls and 17% of boys smoke regularly smoking an average of 52 cigarettes per week. (Health Education Survey, 1989)

One in five of 9 to 15 year olds have had their first alcoholic drink by the age of 8. 12% of 11 to 15 year olds are regular drinkers. ("Daily Telegraph", 22 September 1994)

75% of 15 to 16 year olds in 116 British schools in 1987 had used cannabis leaf. (Health Education Association)

3% of 15 to 16 year olds admitted using heroin. (Manchester University Research Project)

Zambia

Every day 400 to 500 Zambians are infected with the AIDS virus. (Action International Ministries, "World Pulse", 3 October 1995, p6)

There will be 1 million people infected with HIV by 1997, 2 million by the year 2000, and 100,000 will have died from AIDS. (Action International Ministries, "World Pulse", 3 October 1995, p6)

Nearly 78,000 children have been orphaned so far. By 1997 that figure will have probably reached 600,000. (Action International Ministries, "World Pulse", 3 October 1995, p6)

Child labour

Worldwide

As many as 300,000,000 children under the age of 15 are being exploited for their labour worldwide. (ChildHope, "Fact Sheet on Working Street Children")

100 to 200 million children work world-wide. (estimated by United Nations Children's Fund - Informations Sheet, 29 March 1994)

Global March Against Child Labour

700 organisations in 97 countries are involved in a six-month march on behalf of the world's child labourers.

Marches will involve children marching (and bussing!) across Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe.

Marchers from the different continents will gather in Geneva for the start of talks on the most intolerable forms of child labour.

Africa

Estimates for Africa are that 25% of children between the ages of 10 and 14 are involved in labour. (International Labour Organisation)

Reports are that children comprise 17% of Africa's labour force. (United Nations Commission on Human Rights)

Latin America

According to estimates, between 15 and 20% of children in Latin America work. (International Labour Organisation)

Brazil

An estimated 7 million children work in Brazil. (United Nations Children's Fund - Information Sheet, 29 March 1994)

Egypt

70% of child leather workers in Egypt work more than eight hours a day, and only half of these attend or plan to attend school. (United Nations Children's Fund - Information Sheet, 29 March 1994)

India

Estimates for India show that as many as 126 million children are child labourers. (World Vision, "Children at Risk" Development Education brochure)

An estimated 44 million children work in India. (United Nations Children's Fund - Information Sheet, 29 March 1994)

Between 200,000 and 300,000 children are working in central India. (Bonded Labour Liberation Front and its partners)

Government estimates of the child labour force in India reckon on 18 million. India probably has the largest child labour force in the world. (International Labour Organisation)

Nigeria

An estimated 12 million children work in Nigeria. (United Nations Children's Fund - Information Sheet, 29 March 1994)

Senegal

In Senegal the government estimates that there are between 50 and 100 thousand children and young people acting as professional street beggars in bondage to Moslem Marabouts. (Submission by Anti-Slavery International to United Nations Commission on Human Rights, May 1994)

Thailand

Recent reports from Thailand reveal that as many as 5 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working and not attending school. (World Vision, Dr. Bryant L. Myers, MARC, 1992)

United Kingdom

Crackdowns by local authorities have revealed 9 year olds peeling prawns in a Tyneside fish-processing plant; 11 year olds packing jeans in a Preston factory and 12 and 13 year olds wiring table lamps in Scotland for one pound an hour. ("Woman's Weekly", 8 November 1994)

Refugees

Worldwide

The official figures for the world's refugees now stands at 18.9 million and more than half of them are children. ("A Right to Refuge", Save the Children)

Sexual exploitation

Worldwide

1 million children enter the child prostitution racket every year. (UNICEF)

10 million children are estimated to be caught up in the sex industry; child prostitution, sex tourism and pornography. (World Vision, "Children at Risk" - No.4, Development education publication)

More than 250 million copies of child pornography videos are circulating world-wide. ("The Independent", 19 January 1994)

1,000,000 children are lured and forced into child prostitution each year. (Norwegian Government Report quoted by Jubilee Action, 1994)

Sex For Life

In the Viva Network Newsletter Volume 3 issue 3, the article "Sex and Death" or "Sex for Life" asked 'Do children in church today know that sex is something good, created for procreation and pleasure within lifelong monogamous marriage?' Jon Bicknell and others involved in an initiative in Britain called True Love Waits are trying to make sure that they do.

"Some things are worth waiting for, especially sex. God created sex to be enjoyed, but because it is powerful stuff it needs a strong container to keep it safe, and no-one has come up with a better one yet for sex than marriage." Young people who agree with Jon and are committed to refraining from sexual activity before marriage can join True Love Waits and sign the bank card-style declaration of abstinence.

Over 10,000 members have joined since the launch in February.

For more information contact True Love Waits on 01442 872447 (source: New Christian Herald)

Brazil

An estimated 500,000 girls younger than 16 work as prostitutes, many in coastal capitals where sex packages are sold. ("The Associated Press", Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, February, 1996)

Father Bruno Secci has been working with street children in Brazil since 1973. "When I began, there were very few girl prostitutes. Now it is common to find girls of 9, 10 and 11 years old." (Fr. Bruno Secci)

In Ceara girls as young as seven years old work in the red light district. (Quoted by Jubilee Campaign, "Brazil: War on Children")

Canada

In a Canadian study of 229 juveniles involved in prostitution, 71% had a sense of devastated self-esteem, and 80% suffered serious depression. (Unpublished, Green, P., "Prostitution: Children the Victims. The Effects of Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation on Children and Adolescents", 1994, p3)

India

India has at least 300,000 child prostitutes. (WEC International)

Every year 7,000 adolescents are sold by Himalayan villages in Nepal to the brothels of Bombay. (WEC International)

Netherlands

100 children were abducted from their village in Holland and taken to Amsterdam where they were sexually abused. (Quoted by Mary Whitehouse)

Philippines

15,000 children in Manila are involved in prostitution. (WEC International)

Studies in the Philippines reveal that underage female prostitutes have been pregnant: once (48%), twice (33%), three times (15%), four times (5%). 31% have a child themselves. (Jubilee Action, Briefing Paper on the Philippines, 1992, 3.5)

Sri Lanka

More than 10,000 of the child prostitutes in Sri Lanka are boys aged between 8 and 16 years old. (Dr. John Lin, in "Celebration of Life", June/July 1993)

"In Sri Lanka nearly all the victims are boys aged between 6 and 14." ("The Independent", 18 January 1994)

Thailand

80% of Thailand's estimated 1 million prostitutes are under the age of 16. (UNICEF, Aidgo, A, "The Girl Child: Investment in the Future", 1991)

The Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights (CPCR) in Thailand estimates that 80% of girls under 17 who have been rescued from brothels are HIV positive. (Unpublished, Green, P., "Prostitution: Children the Victims. The Effects of Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation on Children and Adolescents", 1994, p4)

In a Thai study of 1,012 adolescents and young adults being prostituted, 90% of respondents disapproved of prostitution and their role in it, 43% felt disappointed in themselves, hopeless

and trapped, 50% felt that society showed contempt for them, 26% stated that they would commit suicide if they knew they had contracted AIDS. (Unpublished, Green, P., "Prostitution: Children the Victims. The Effects of Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation on Children and Adolescents", 1994, p3)

There are over 200,000 child prostitutes in Thailand. (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT))

50% of Thai child prostitutes are HIV positive. ("Time Magazine", 21 June 1993)

United Kingdom

750 pornographic computer disks were seized by police in Dunstable from a school where they were traded by children as young as 11. ("The Independent", 23 September 1993)

A Manchester City Council trip for young people aged 13 years upward included a tour of Amsterdam's Red Light District. ("Manchester Evening News", 12 August 1994)

50% of 8,500 schools involved in a recent study admitted that computer pornography has been available to their pupils, some as young as 8 years. (University of Lancashire Study, 1993)

In 1993 of all the cases open to the NSPCC 42% involved children suffering or at risk of sexual abuse. (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

"There is much evidence that child abuse in the UK - sexual, physical and emotional - is far more widespread than was previously thought. The most reliable UK findings suggest that between 12% and 59% of all women, and 8% and 27% of all men have experienced some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18." (National Children's Home Factfile, 1993)

It is now possible to drive into almost any big city in Britain by day or night and buy a child to have sex with. ("Mail on Sunday", 21 November 1993)

Police in West Yorkshire reported in September 1992 that a quarter of the prostitutes arrested in their vice areas are 16 or under. (West Yorkshire Police)

Children as young as 10 are selling themselves for sex in Britain's cities. (Children's Society, March 1993)

"The price of children on the streets of Britain is falling, the sure sign that the supply has increased. A lot of older prostitutes feel threatened." ("The Guardian", 29 August 1994)

A Chamber of Commerce report stated that the number of child prostitutes between the ages of 8 and 13 has gone up five-fold in the past 7 years. ("The Times", 21 June 1993)

United States of America

The United States has an estimated 150,000 prostitutes. (ChildHope, "Fact Sheets on Street Girls", March 1990)

70% of all adult criminals in US jails suffered childhood sexual abuse. (American Justice Department Study, 1984)

Vietnam

There are over 40,000 child prostitutes in Vietnam. (Jubilee Action, 1994)

Street children

Worldwide

At least 100 million children worldwide are believed to live at least part of the time on the streets. . . These street children are first and foremost working children. (UNICEF, 29 March 1994)

Africa

Children now make up half of the population of Africa. Many in urban areas are reduced to living on the streets, surviving through begging, theft and violence. (FEBA Radio Publication)

Bangladesh

There are 10,000 street girls living in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (World Vision International, 1993)

Belgium

Belgium has 4,000 homeless children (in the charge of homeless parents). (Council of Europe)

Bolivia

In BOLIVIA there are 1,500 to 2,000 children living and sleeping in the streets. (Bolivian Government, Census Figures, 1992)

Brazil

Homeless children in Brazil number around 12 million. (Action International Ministries)

Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia has about 5,000 to 10,000 street children. (World Vision International, 1993)

Colombia

5,000 to 9,000 children live on the streets of Bogota, Colombia. (Action International Ministries)

France

France has about 10,000 street children. (Council of Europe)

Ireland

Ireland has 500 to 1,000 street children. (Council of Europe)

Mexico

Mexico City has 1,900,000 underprivileged and street children. 240,000 of these are abandoned children. (Action International Ministries)

In the central area of Mexico City there are 11,172 street children. 1,020 live in the street and 10,152 work there. (City of Mexico/Fideicomiso, Report, 1991)

Netherlands

Street children in the Netherlands number some 7,000. (Council of Europe)

Peru

Up to 10,000 street and underprivileged children die in Lima, Peru every year. (Kids Alive Ministry)

Philippines

There are 50,000 to 70,000 street children in Manila. (Action International Ministries)

There are an estimated 1,200,000 street children in the Philippines. (Report of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (1991) from Jubilee Action, 1992)

It is estimated that there are 1.5 million street children working as pickpockets, beggars, drug traffickers and prostitutes. (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT))

Romania

A survey funded by the European Union found around 1,500 children living on the streets of Bucharest. More than 50% were aged between 12 and 15 and 83% of them were boys. Almost 40% had been on the streets for three or more years and 30% were permanently stoned on solvents, while another 25% used them occasionally. ("The Independent", 8 July 1996)

Russia

In MOSCOW 5,000 children and young people are abandoned on the streets every year. (BBC1 News, 12 October 1994)

Turkey

There are 6,000 to 7,000 street children in Istanbul, Turkey. (Council of Europe)

United Kingdom

According to a 'Crisis' report half of the beggars on our streets spent their childhood in care and a quarter slept on the streets before they were 16. ("IDEA" Magazine of the Evangelical Alliance, January 1995)

Nearly 100,000 young people go missing in Britain each year. (The Children's Society, "Young runaways", 1989)

Vast numbers of children in the United Kingdom run away from home and 156,000 young people are homeless in Britain every year. (according to Shelter)

United States of America

In the United States there is a crisis situation and Federal Government revealed that there are about 500,000 under-age runaways and 'throw-aways'. ("New York Times", 5 February 1990)

Wars

Worldwide

More than one and a half million children have been killed in wars worldwide in the past decade. Over 4 million have been disabled, maimed, blinded and brain damaged and more

than 12 million children have lost their homes in this period. ("Children at War", Save the Children, publ. 16 November 1994)

500,000 children were severely wounded or disabled in 1992 in indiscriminate attacks on communities during conflicts. (UNICEF, from "The Independent", 11 June 1993)

35 countries have used child soldiers in the past 10 years. ("Children at War", Save the Children, publ. 16 November 1994)

Over the past decade, 10 million children - 1 in every 200 throughout the world - have been traumatised by the effects of war and need help to overcome emotional distress. (Save the Children)

In the past decade 2,000,000 children have been killed in war; up to 5,000,000 have been physically disabled; 12,000,000 have been left homeless; and more than 1,000,000 have been orphaned or separated from their peers. (UNICEF, "State of the World's Children" report, 1995)

Afghan Children Do Not Expect to Live to Adulthood

Research carried out by UNICEF shows that 90% of children in Kabul, the Afghan capital, believe they will die in the civil war and 75% believe they will not live to adulthood.

Most of the children have seen war-related violence, dead bodies or parts of dead bodies. The suffering resulting from their traumas is shared with children from the many war situations across the world. Nightmares, anxiety, concentration problems, reduced appetite and inability to play; the kinds of effects that will only be overcome through prayer, patience and persistence of Christian counsellors such as Phyllis Kilbourn.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

1,000 children were killed between April and October 1992 in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 1,000,000 others lost relatives and homes. ("The Independent", 11 June 1993)

Mozambique

During the war in Mozambique at least 8,000 children were forcibly recruited to fight in the Renamo military forces. (British Broadcasting Corporation and Save the Children, 24 October 1994)

Rwanda

There are an estimated 200,000 orphans in Rwanda as a result of the recent civil war. (Action International Ministries)

Somalia

During the period April to October 1992 children killed in Somalia numbered 200,000. ("The Independent", 11 June 1993)