



# CSEEC

**c**ommercial  
**s**exual  
**e**xploitation  
**o**f  
**c**hildren

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# what does your class know?

## Does Your Class Know...?

Do children around the world share the same rights as children in the United States?

What countries have children who are forced into sexual prostitution, exploitation, and pornography?

Do men from wealthy countries, in particular the United States of America, Great Britain, and France participate in child prostitution?

How old do you think children are when they enter into the sexual exploitation industry?

Does a county's economy affect the number of victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC)?

## Key Definitions

**HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Disease is a retrovirus that attacks the cells of the immune system. The cells are progressively destroyed or impaired so they can not function properly. This causes the immune system to deplete over time, hence the 'immunodeficiency' in the disease's name. HIV is the virus that eventually causes AIDS.

**AIDS:** An Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome diagnosis is made when the group of symptoms that collectively indicate the disease are identified in an HIV positive person. These symptoms include the development of certain infections and/or cancers, in addition to the decrease in the number of certain immune system cells in a person's bloodstream. This diagnosis is made by a doctor using specific clinical standards.

**CRC:** The Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that recognizes the human rights of children, defined as persons up to the age of 18 years. It obligates states to ensure the rights to survival, development, protection and participation of all children without discrimination.





## basic facts



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## Basic Facts

Every year as many as 2 million children are exploited through prostitution or pornography worldwide.<sup>1</sup>

Thirty to thirty-five percent of all sex workers in the Mekong sub-region (Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand) are between 12 and 17 years old.<sup>2</sup>

Girls as young as 13 (mainly from Asia and Eastern Europe) are trafficked as 'mail-order brides.' In most cases these girls and women are powerless, isolated, and at great risk of violence.<sup>3</sup>

In Lithuania, estimates calculate that twenty to fifty percent of prostitutes are believed to be minors.<sup>4</sup>

Approximately 200,000 to 300,000 children within the US are "at risk" of commercial sexual exploitation every year. The exact number of those actually exploited is unknown.<sup>5</sup>

Between 50,000 and 100,000 people are trafficked every year into the United States;<sup>6</sup> of these, between 18,000 and 20,000 are children.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ECPAT. "Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs." March 7, 2002, <[http://www.ecpatusa.org/pdf/senate\\_testimony.pdf](http://www.ecpatusa.org/pdf/senate_testimony.pdf)> (April 1, 2004).

<sup>2</sup> "Child Protection: Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation," <[http://www.unicef.org/protection/index\\_exploitation.html](http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_exploitation.html)> (March 3, 2004).

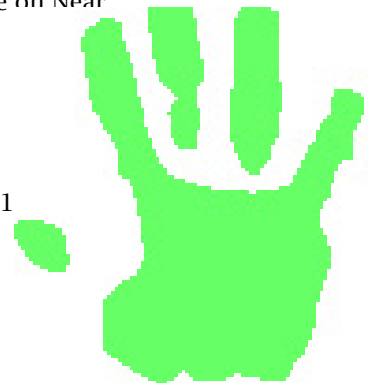
<sup>3</sup> *supra* 2.

<sup>4</sup> *supra* 2.

<sup>5</sup> "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the US, Canada and Mexico," 1 September 2001, <<http://www.ssw.upenn.edu/~restes/CSEC.htm>> (March 3, 2004).

<sup>6</sup> *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. June 2003.*

<sup>7</sup> Amy O'Neill Richard. April 2000. *International Trafficking of Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery and Organized Crime.* US State Department .





## issue background



### What is CSEC?

CSEC is the commercial sexual exploitation of children. According to the World Conference against CSEC, "It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery." CSEC includes the activities of prostitution of children, pornography of children, and trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

### What are the forms of CSEC?

#### Prostitution

According to the CRC, prostitution is the use of a child for sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration.

#### Pornography

Children portrayed in real or simulated acts or poses intended for the sexual gratification of the user are victims of pornography. Pornography takes form via a variety of media; film, print, photography, audio, and digital representation are a few examples. It includes involvement with producing, distributing, or consuming these materials.

#### Trafficking for sexual purposes

Children are transported across international borders or within countries, from city to city, or rural to urban centers. Often this is done by force. Victims are purchased or traded for the sexual gratification of the consumer and/or financial gain of the trafficker.

### Why does CSEC exist?

There are many causes attributed to CSEC, including: globalization, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, racial discrimination, tourism, military presence, and demand.

Poverty is a common determinant of CSEC. Families who cannot support their children may be forced to sell them in order to survive. Also, children without support from family or friends may be forced to find ways to make money for food and shelter. In addition, people think there is less risk of contracting sexually-transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS if they have sex with children. In actuality, children have higher risk of contracting HIV because they are more likely to be injured during a sexual act.

*Above all, CSEC occurs because it is demanded and supplied by adults.*

#### Pimps and Madams

Pimps and madams arrange encounters and take a cut of the profits. Pimps and madams control children in a variety of ways. They may use violence, deception, or coercion.

#### Hospitality and Tourism Businesses

Child sex tourism occurs when an individual travels with the intent to engage in sexual acts with a child under the age of 18. Hotel owners, bar owners, and massage parlor owners may promote CSEC. The majority of perpetrators involved in the child sex tourism business are from developed countries with advanced economies like the United States.

#### Pornographers

Pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry worldwide. Most child pornography is created using children from developing countries.

#### Organized Crime

Traffickers may be affiliated with organized crime rings. Organized crime groups provide the network and personnel for many of the traffickers. In return, profits from trafficking fund organized crime groups.



# issue background



## Who is most vulnerable?

**Children who experience poverty**  
Children who are impoverished may be forced to take drastic action in order to find food and shelter. Families unable to support their children may become involved in CSEC.

**Children who lack family support**  
Children who have been abandoned or have lost their families are susceptible to CSEC. Children who have run away from home are often vulnerable. Children who grow up surrounded by family members involved in the commercial sex industry are much more susceptible to becoming a part of the sex industry.

**Children who live near tourist destinations**  
Thailand, the Philippines, and Taiwan experience high numbers of sex tourists. Cambodia has also received much media attention as a country with a high number of sex tourists specifically seeking out children.

**Children who live near military bases**  
Prostitution has always thrived near military bases. Because of the high demand, children near the bases are more vulnerable to this flourishing business. Women and children have been trafficked from other countries to meet the demands of military personnel.

**Children who have uncertain legal status**  
Children without a birth certificate or passport lack legal protection. In most countries, they do not have the same rights to protection as citizens. Police protection and protection within the courts are not guaranteed.

## Trafficking

CSEC is closely interrelated with trafficking. Trafficked children may be forced into domestic slavery or sexual exploitation. Children are kidnapped or sold to a trafficker who takes the children to a different city or country and sells them. The children are removed from their community and taken to a new city where they are isolated and may be unable to speak the language.

Traffickers may lie to, lure, or coerce a child to leave, or lie to the child's family. Psychological manipulation of victims plays a large role. Traffickers can rely on drugs and violence to subdue children. Afterward, they sell the victims to pimps or madams who use the same violent means to control the children.

Corrupt governments and weak infrastructure contribute to the freedom traffickers have to move people from place to place. Often law-enforcement agencies are overwhelmed because they lack resources or political will.

## How are they affected?

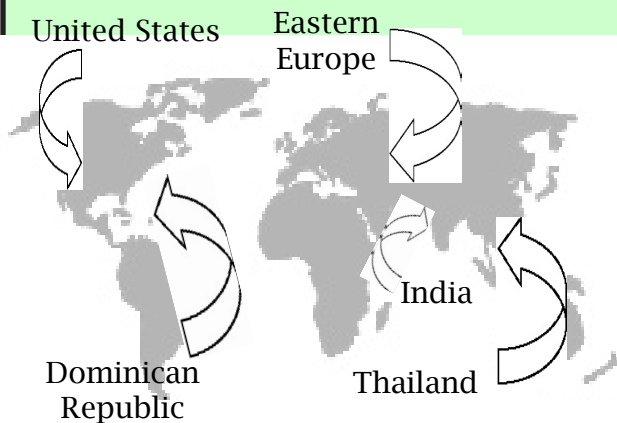
Children have their childhood stolen from them. They may feel worthless and dirty. They may lose their self respect, desire to live and sense of purpose. They may become aggressive, violent or depressed. Children are at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS. Also, children may be rejected by their families and friends. Victims often turn to alcohol, drugs, or other substances to help them deal with their experiences.





## issue background

### Countries and Regions with High CSEC Activity



### Where is CSEC occurring?

CSEC happens everywhere. Some specific places it may occur are within the sex tourism industry and in shops that front as other businesses. Furthermore, some countries are notorious for providing child sex services. For example, South and South East Asia are regions with a high number of child sex tourists.

### What is being done to address

First and foremost, the commercial sexual exploitation of children is illegal internationally.

Legislation is one way to lessen CSEC. The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) provides protection for trafficked and exploited children. Article 19 of the CRC provides protection from abuse, Article 34 protects children from sexual exploitation, and Article 35 binds the state to protect trafficked children. Excepting the United States and Somalia, every country has signed and ratified the CRC.

The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, meant to complement the CRC, calls for international cooperation to end CSEC. To date, 108 countries have signed and 65 have ratified this Protocol. Although the United States has not ratified the CRC, it ratified the Optional Protocol on December 23, 2002.

In the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (P.L. 106-386) led to the 2003 formation of the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. This Task Force includes members from the Departments of State, Justice, Labor, Homeland Security, Defense, Health and Human Services, and other agencies. This Interagency Task Force and other new laws enable US agencies to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of children around the world more than ever before.

However, much more still needs to be done. One of the biggest tasks is to create public awareness about CSEC. Another is to enact legislation instituting stiffer penalties for those who sexually exploit children. Penalties and treatment for adult abusers need to be provided. Finally, governments and NGOs must implement prevention, rescue, and reintegration programs for children who have suffered from these exploitations.

### How can you help?

You can help first by educating yourself about the issues, like you are doing now. Join our mailing list. In addition, talk about CSEC with other people. You can also write letters of advocacy and participate in marches and rallies protesting CSEC.





# discussion questions

*It might be a good idea to break the class into small groups due to the sensitivity of the topic and students' possible intimidation to speak about it in a large-group setting.*

Did you know so many children in the world were involved with CSEC ?

How many children did you think were involved with CSEC?

Why do so many children become victims of CSEC?

What do you think of when you hear the words "prostitute" or "pimp"?

Where do your perceptions come from?

Do you think your perception of a prostitute, pimp, or trafficker is accurate now that you know more about CSEC?

Why is the concept of virginity so important? To whom is this idea important?

What are some ways to dispel these rumors claiming that virginity may cure HIV/AIDS?

How do these rumors impact the spread of STDs and AIDS?

What are some ways to prevent children from becoming victims of CSEC?

What sort of protection measures can be offered?

What can be done to help children who are already victims?

What type of help and support would you want if you were victimized?

## Background Information

### The United States Responds to Trafficking and CSEC

In 2000, the United States passed the "Trafficking Victims Act of 2000." The Act provides legislation for domestic and international trafficking. It is designed to prevent, protect, and prosecute. Prevention initiatives include micro-credit lending programs, job training and counseling, educational programs, promotion of women's participation in economic decision-making, and public awareness programs. The new T-Visa allows victims of severe forms of trafficking who may be potential witnesses to such trafficking to become temporary residents of the United States. The Act increases the penalty for various types of trafficking, including labor, sexual exploitation, and the selling of a person into involuntary slavery. The Act was reauthorized in 2003.



# classroom activities



## Introduction Activities

### Trafficking map

- Pass out a map and have students indicate where they think trafficking is most prevalent.
- Pass out the map with trafficking routes marked. Have students identify countries where trafficking is most prevalent.
- Tie in the fact that CSEC occurs in the United States.

### Impact on a child

Brainstorm the effects on a child involved with CSEC.

- Emotionally & Mentally
- Socially
- Physically, including STDs, HIV/AIDS

### Case Study

Read the case study provided as a class or in small groups. Fill out the worksheet provided or discuss the children's experiences aloud.

Share an account of a US teenager involved with CSEC. Refer to the examples provided.

## Class Follow-up Activities

Break into small groups and have students brainstorm who they think is vulnerable.

- Why are they at risk?
- What could be done to protect these children?
- What can you do to help?

Imagine your best friend tells you he/she has been prostituted.

- Your friend has been forced into the profession by a pimp.
- Your friend is making a lot of money.

Imagine you are abducted to a new country where you don't speak the language. You have no passport or ID with you to prove who you are.

- What would you do?
- Where would you go for help?
- What services and help should the United States have for children trafficked into the country?

### Rehabilitation

Talk about organizations who are working with children formerly a part of CSEC.

Have students come up with a rehabilitation plan and discuss what aspects are important.

- Education
- Safety & Security
- Job Training
- Housing & Shelter

## Homework Assignments

Find organizations that work to fight CSEC and write a summary of what they do.

Contact a local organization working to help children involved with CSEC:

- What do they do to help?
- What educational/awareness initiatives do they provide?
- What assistance do they need?

Write a paragraph about why people are involved with CSEC and then write a paragraph of alternative solutions.

Write your representatives and senators about CSEC.

Write a paper suggesting how students can work to help prevent CSEC.



# beyond the classroom



## Projects

Write letters to your congressional representatives asking for their position on CSEC and trafficking.

Request information from your congressional, city or state representatives about action taken in your district/state to protect children.

## Papers

Research the prominence of CSEC in one country.

Research different governmental solutions to address CSEC.

Research one of the types of CSEC and explain its impact on children.

## For More Information:

Youth Advocate Program International

[www.yapi.org](http://www.yapi.org)

The Protection Project

[www.protectionproject.org](http://www.protectionproject.org)

Polaris Project

[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

US Campaign Against CSEC

[www.stopcsec.us](http://www.stopcsec.us)

Casa Alianza

[www.casaalianza.org](http://www.casaalianza.org)

Sanlaap

[www.sanlaap-sa.org](http://www.sanlaap-sa.org)

ECPAT International

[www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

UNICEF

[www.unicef.org/crc](http://www.unicef.org/crc)

US Department of State

[www.state.gov/g/tip](http://www.state.gov/g/tip)

U.S. Senate

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

U.S. House of Representatives

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

Research an organization that works to end CSEC

## Extra-Curricular Ideas

Begin a social awareness/human rights club.

Volunteer at an organization working to prevent CSEC.

Write a letter about CSEC to your city newspaper.

Attend an advocacy meeting or protest.

## Just in Case...

### Student Experience

- If you know the student has personal experience with this area, let him/her know of the class topic in advance.
- If the student volunteers this information, ask the student if he/she would like to talk about the experience.

### Student Openly Emotional

Crying

- Don't draw attention to the student.
- Follow up with the student.

Angry

- Ask the student questions to try and channel the emotion positively.

Skeptical

- Find out what questions the student has.

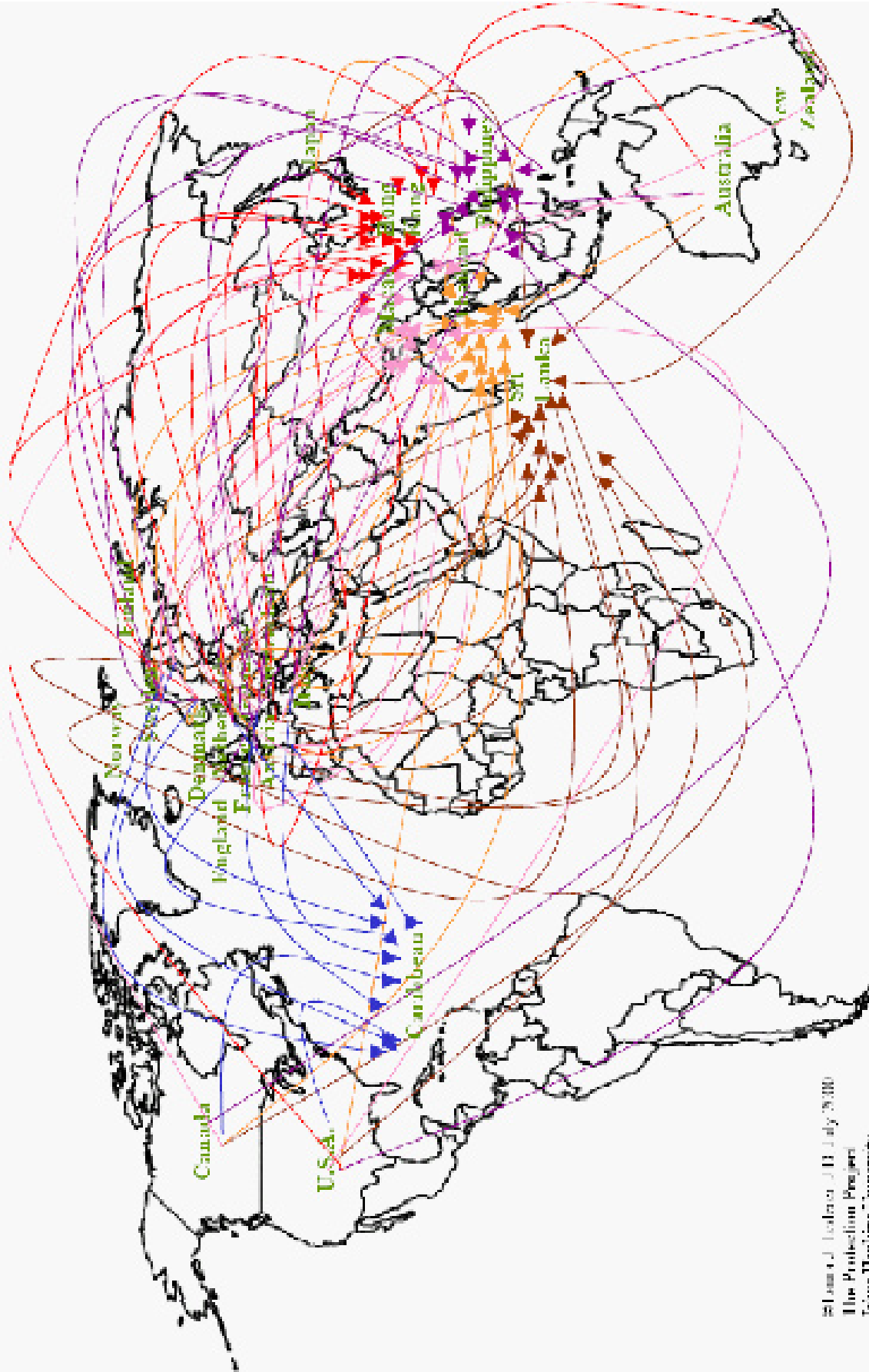
- Encourage the student to complete additional research about the topic and report to the class.

Hopeless/Guilty

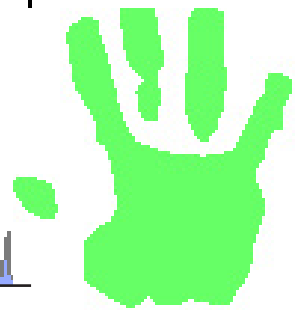
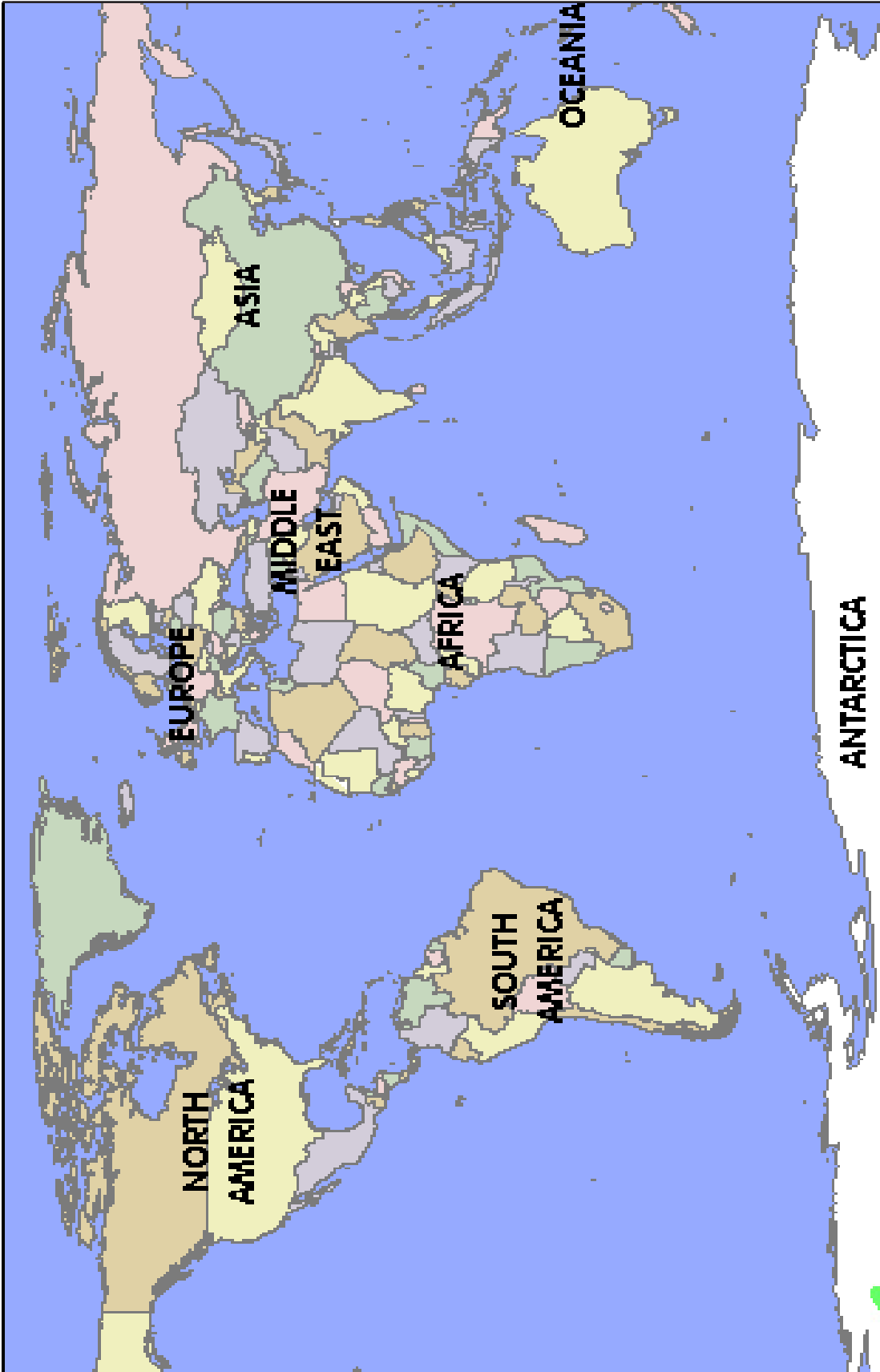
- Offer ways for the student to get more involved.



# SEX TOURISM: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



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# WORLD MAP

# case study



Srey Neth once went to school. Her father was a land-owner and the family was able to provide a comfortable life for themselves. When Srey Neth was in third grade, her father was diagnosed with Malaria. In order to pay for his treatment he mortgaged his land.

Srey Neth's school days were now numbered because she is a girl and in Cambodia girls are considered second-class citizens. It was not considered a necessity for her to go to school. So while her brothers continued their education, Srey Neth was taken out of school to help with work at home.



Before the family lost all of its land an older female cousin suggested selling Srey Neth's virginity. The cousin felt that Srey Neth was not of any use to the family if she was just working in the household and not bringing in any income. She was only thirteen when she was bought by a Casino manager for 750 dollars. Srey Neth was then forced to spend a week with him.

After she lost her virginity, Srey Neth was confined to a Brothel. After she lost her virginity she was only able to make about thirteen dollars per session. She would service about ten men, or more. She never saw a penny of the money. It was used to pay back the 750 dollars the manager gave to her family initially.

Over her four years of prostitution her price gradually dropped to less than three dollars per session. She was completely illiterate and only had a third grade education. During these four years as a prostitute she never stayed long in one place and was constantly moved from brothel to brothel.

Srey Neth was traded often because she attempted to run away so many times. Each time she tried she was caught and forced to move to another brothel. Almost four years after her first day in prostitution she was caught one last time trying to run. The guards working at the brothel beat her so badly that she was no longer any use to the brothel. The police found her body a week later in an alley.

*-The events in this story are based on actual events.*





# beyond the classroom

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