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**Safeguarding Children?
Current Debates – Future Prospects**

What is international child sexual abuse?

Plan

- research findings
- international CSA in general
- current debates – future prospects specifically
- discussion

‘Improving practice and policy in respect of international and internet cases of CSA and exploitation (which have a link to the UK)’

- Funder: The Nuffield Foundation
- Research team: Claire Fraser, Kris Christmann and Beth Hodgson
- Fieldwork: 2002 - 2004
- Report: www.hud.ac.uk/hhs/research/acs/staff/bg.htm or b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Plan (presentation)

- Aims
- Methodology
- Findings: typology, extent, nature, case study
- Policy and practice issues

Aims

1. Extent of known cases
2. Nature of known cases
3. Policy and practice implications of these cases

Methodology

1. National postal questionnaire survey (NPQS) among police, and HM Revenue and Customs
2. Practice-focused interviews with police and HMRC
3. Study of police files

4. Policy-focused interviews within relevant organisations
(Government, NGOs, police, HMRC, academia)

5. Searches of police records and reports

6. NPQS among children's services departments, probation
and Trading Standards

Findings

Major typology of international CSA cases

1. International CSA victims
2. International child sex abusers
3. International movement of child abuse images (CAIs)

1. International CSA victims

1. club (e.g. sports) trip
 2. exchange trips
 3. forced marriage
 4. fostering (official and unofficial)
 5. holidays
 6. *internet-initiated child sex abuser 'ring'*
 7. *internet-initiated grooming*
 8. medical patient
 9. migrant
 10. school trip
 11. **trafficking**
- **into UK**
 - out of UK

Extent

(search of CSA cases recorded by two police services Jan. 1999-Dec. 2002)

Police service	International CSA victim	Other
Metro	5 (0.1%)	4704 (99.9%)
Shire	2 (0.2%)	982 (99.8%)

Nature

Victims

- children on organised trips (clubs, exchange and school) or holidays, migrant children, and those involved in internet-initiated CSA rings or receiving medical treatment
- diverse re. age, gender, family background, socio-economic status and ethnicity (similar to children referred to police and children's services departments)

- trafficking cases - older girls (secondary school age)
 - 'fostering' cases - older boys
- backgrounds: developing countries + acutely disadvantaged or dysfunctional

- children abused through international, internet-initiated grooming

- older girls unremarkable in terms of family background, socio-economic status and ethnicity

- victims of forced marriage

- older girlsre. ethnicity they were distinct in terms of being of South Asian heritage

Case study

Child brought into the UK having been 'fostered' by a British missionary (verbatim copy of case reported on police NPQS)

'Saeed is an Ethiopian refugee currently living in this country. He provided police with his background. He was ten years old when he met the suspect John Smith.



Smith was a British missionary living in Mogadishu who ran a house for street boys. He housed approximately 40 boys.



'Saeed alleged that from the age of 10, he was forced to have anal intercourse with Smith. In 1996, when Saeed was 13 years old, Smith brought him to England for three weeks.



The abuse continued during this period, Saeed was forced to masturbate the subject.



The abuse continued on their return back to Mogadishu. In October 1997, Smith brought Saeed back to this country to live and applied for permanent asylum for him.

The abuse continued until, in 1999, Saeed requested a[n] [official] foster place and was given one.



Smith was arrested in March 2001Smith was suspected of abusing another boy in Mogadishu and also of bringing him to this country for a holiday.



Interpol were instructed to trace this boy but were unsuccessful.'

2. International child sex abusers

1. children's worker
2. **child sex tourist**
3. holidaymaker
4. *internet-initiated 'groomer'*
5. *internet-initiated child sex abuse 'ring' member*
6. migrant
7. military worker
8. paid worker
9. religious worker
10. student
11. voluntary worker

- **out of UK**

- into UK

Extent

(search of CSA cases recorded by two police services Jan. 1999-Dec. 2002)

Police service	International child sex abuser	Other
Metro	19 (0.4%)	4690 (99.6%)
Shire	4 (0.4%)	980 (99.6%)

Nature

- virtually all were male
- otherwise diverse e.g. ages, socio-economic status, cohabiting, relationship and parenting status.....but.....
- individuals who worked (either on a paid, religious or voluntary basis) with children in the UK (and took them abroad), holidaymakers, internet-initiated child sex ring members, migrants and military workers
- abuse committed abroad: extension of offending in UK, sometimes opportunistic, and victims in abusers' more immediate 'circle'

(similar to cross-section of CSA cases reported to police and children's services departments)

- international aspect of the sexual abuse was, for the abuser, more incidental than instrumental.
- child sex tourists and individuals from the UK who went abroad to work (either on a paid, religious or voluntary basis) with children
- abusers sole and specific intent for going abroad was to sexually abuse children.....perceived to be easier to commit abuse + avoid detection
- fixated or preferential child sex offenders, who abused mostly boys and especially those who were disadvantaged.

- (international) internet-initiated 'groomers'

→ victims female and adolescent offenders and victims from North America or the UK

Case study

The offender in this case travelled throughout the UK visiting churches to raise funds for orphanages, for girls (only), which he had set up in two countries, one in Eastern Europe and one in South East Asia.



Concerns regarding the offender arose after representatives of these churches visited Albania, to meet and work with these children, and check their donations were being used appropriately.



Whilst at the orphanage, the church representatives witnessed a variety of incidents which caused them to be anxious.



These included the offender sexually harassing a woman who worked in the home, along with a teenage girl who lived there, kissing younger girls on the lips and sharing a bed with an eight-year old girl.



Some of the girls were also overheard complaining that they could not sleep in the same bed as the offender (overnight) when the home had visitors [i.e. the church members].



The offender was also seen to arrive home in a drunken state, at night, and become very aggressive - something which the children were said to find very frightening. He had, in addition, brought some of the girls back to his home in the UK for temporary stays.



The investigation involved several police services in the UK, and national and foreign organisations, but there was never any specific allegation against the offender.



That said, the police interviewee did state that the local police, in the East European country in question, did not take the concerns seriously and were, in all likelihood, being bribed by the suspect.



Once the suspect became aware of the concern and the subsequent police investigation, he relinquished control of the orphanage in the East European country.



It was later closed down by welfare authorities in that country.

3. International movement of child abuse images (CAIs)

- CAIs brought into the UK (mostly in the post but also on the person /in luggage)
- CAIs sent out of the country (mostly in the post)

Extent

HMRC

- 1st April 2003 – 31st March 2004
→ 14 detections of paedophile material

(2,306 seizures of adult pornographic material)

Nature

- two broad categories of case

1) commercial producers US or Western Europe selling material to customers in the US or Western Europe

2) individuals or groups providing CAIs free of charge English-speaking and developed countries

Naturecont

- Internet + growing commercialisation of CAIs production + increasing international travel
- ever-more diverse e.g. child sex tourists going to countries in South East Asia, such as Thailand, and abusing and photographing children there.
- wide variety of formats
- 'hard copy' formats i.e. photographs and magazines, + videotapes + electronic media e.g. floppy discs, CDs, DVDs, laptop computers

Case study

This case was detected quite inadvertently when the offender accidentally left his bag on a bus (in the UK).



When the bag was subsequently opened, by the bus driver, it was found to contain an envelope which was addressed (and stamped) to a company in Denmark which published pornographic magazines.



Inside the envelope were photographs of a young girl, aged about 5 years, being indecently assaulted. The bus company reported the matter to the police.



The owner of the envelope was traced, by the police, and he admitted that he had taken the images of the girl - to whom he was related.



On being interviewed, he explained that the address on the envelope was of a company from which he had obtained adult pornographic magazines previously.



This case had only just been detected at the time the fieldwork was being carried out and its eventual outcome was not known.



However, the UK police officer did point out that further enquiries were being carried out by Danish police. He added that he would not be approaching Interpol '*because that would take ages*'.



The police officer suggested that the offender may have been using the postal system, either because he did not have Internet access or because he was worried about being detected transmitting such material over the Internet.

Recent developments

- Tightening of law on child trafficking
- Greater restrictions on UK sex offenders travelling abroad
- Travel bans on UK sex offenders
- Setting up of CEOP
- Foreign sex offenders registering on entry to UK
- Special police operations re. unaccompanied children coming into the UK

Recommendations

- International child protection agency
- National child protection agencies – and widen role of CEOP
- Prioritising child protection
- More resources into detecting and investigating cases of child trafficking
- Child protection in children's home countries
- Addressing macro level economic, political and social issues