



GREECE

ECPAT

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

*A report on the scale, scope and context of
the sexual exploitation of children*

DECEMBER, 2019



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Table of contents

<i>Preface</i>	1
<i>At a Glance</i>	2
<i>Introduction</i>	4
<i>The Context of the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Greece</i>	8
<i>International, Regional and National Commitments and Legislation on the Sexual Exploitation of Children</i>	16
<i>National Response to the Sexual Exploitation of Children</i>	24
<i>Child, Victim and Survivor Participation</i>	33
<i>Recommendations for Action</i>	34
<i>Acronyms</i>	36



Recent years have seen unprecedented progress towards embedding the child's right to protection from sexual exploitation more deeply into the global agenda, no more so than the global mandate to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children (SEC) enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015. ECPAT Country Overviews on SEC provide an effective tool for advocacy at all levels as well as for monitoring, including on government commitments made in the SDGs to end violence against children in all its different forms by 2030.

ECPAT Country Overviews are first and foremost, a desk review exercise that gather and present all the existing publicly available information into a comprehensive summary of all forms of SEC in a country. They do not contain any new primary data. They also provide an assessment of achievements and challenges in implementing counteractions - including the participation of children themselves - to eliminate SEC.

ECPAT Country Overviews also suggest concrete priority actions urgently needed to proactively advance the national fight against SEC and enable the monitoring of the implementation of international instruments on child rights related to sexual exploitation that have been ratified by the State. Furthermore, the ECPAT Country Overviews provide well-organised information and research, which can be used in preparing Alternative Reports and Additional Submissions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Council.

During the process, drafts are shared with ECPAT members, relevant local organisations, and experts working on the ground who review the content and supplement the information with other local sources and analysis. ECPAT International greatly relies on the contributions of all those involved in producing these reports and would like to express its profound appreciation for their invaluable inputs.

At a Glance

A number of political and socioeconomic factors in the past ten years have left Greek children very vulnerable. The 2009 global financial crisis left Greece with a crippling debt burden, placing tremendous strain on the economy and consequently the population. Poverty and unemployment soared, leaving those children most vulnerable to sexual exploitation at an even greater risk. Children from minority, migrant and marginalised groups have been particularly affected by the financial crisis. Greece's economy then faced further pressure when it became the epicentre for a large refugee influx in 2015. Amongst these, Greece saw an unprecedented number of unaccompanied minors crossing into the European Union via their borders. Fleeing conflict and persecution, many of these children faced exploitation during their journey, only to find themselves at further risk of abuse after they arrived.

Reports of exploitation of children have grown in Greece since the migrant influx of 2015. Reports indicate that unaccompanied migrant boys and girls are forced to actively engage in their own sexual exploitation by using 'survival sex' given limited other opportunities, or to fund their onward journey out of Greece. Of the 5,162 unaccompanied minors officially registered in Greece as of November 2019, 93.1% of these were boys. This figure clearly shows the gender divide of unaccompanied minors in Greece and explains the high number of SEC-related cases indicated amongst boys noted in various data sources referred to in this report.

When considering human trafficking, Greece has been mainly identified as a country of destination and transit of victims, but to a certain degree, also a country of origin. The number of unaccompanied child migrants in Greece has increased the number of children susceptible to being trafficked. Reports described in this overview highlight the phenomenon of children, mainly of Roma origin, from Albania, Bulgaria and Romania who have been trafficked into Greece. A number of complex interdependent socioeconomic factors can make children of Roma origin especially vulnerable to trafficking.

Despite the centrality of tourism to Greece's economy, there is a scarcity of data on the extent of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, with the subject receiving little to no attention from both the government and civil society. The Greek population is highly connected to the Internet which means there are risks of online child sexual exploitation. Whilst little formal government data means the exact scale is unknown in Greece, reports suggest technology has played a crucial role in the recruitment of migrant children into the sex trade in Greece. There is no publicly available data on child, early and forced marriage in Greece. Studies covered in this overview indicate that early marriage persists within Greek Muslim Roma communities.

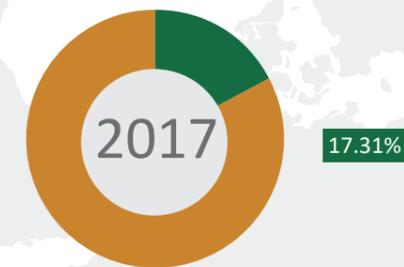
Greece has ratified a number of international and regional instruments which articulate efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of children. However, it is worth noting that the country has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure. The national legislation is not fully in compliance with international standards and gaps persist to comprehensively address the sexual exploitation children in a harmonised manner. Furthermore, responses to the sexual exploitation of children are limited due to a lack of centralised national legal, policy and monitoring frameworks to address sexual exploitation of children and the key drivers of children's vulnerability. As of 2019, there is no national plan in Greece that addresses SEC, nor an overarching child protection framework.

The efforts of civil society in preventing and raising awareness on sexual exploitation of children and related phenomena are praiseworthy. However, national law enforcement and protection systems are stretched beyond breaking point due to the recent financial crisis and pressure from ongoing humanitarian demands.

POPULATION

SOURCE: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2016

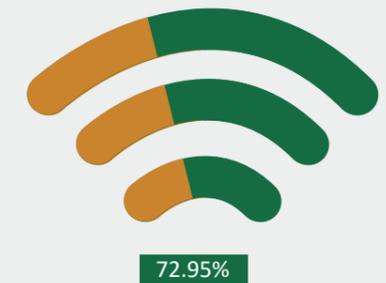
Children under 18 years



INTERNET ACCESS

SOURCE: ITU Statistics 2018: Greece Country Profile

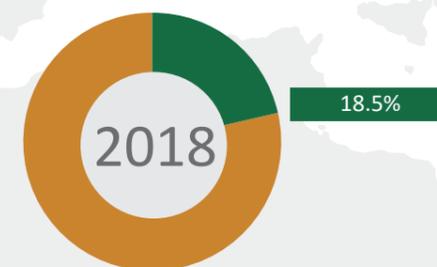
Have internet access



POVERTY RATE

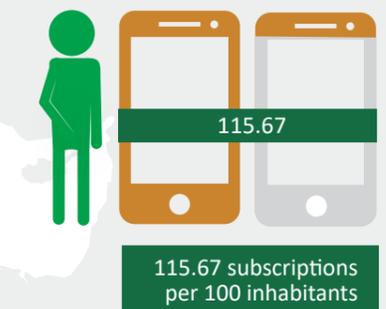
SOURCE: Eurostat, EU-SILC and ECHP surveys

At-risk of poverty rate by poverty threshold



MOBILE PHONE USERS

SOURCE: ITU Statistics 2018: Greece Country Profile



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW

	Girls	Boys
Age of consent for sex	15*	15*
Minimum age for marriage	18^	18^
Legal working age	15	15
Compulsory age of schooling	6-15	6-15

* but provides for a close-in-age exemption

^ with a few exceptions

COUNTRY OVERVIEW AND SPECIFIC VULNERABILITIES LEADING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

The Hellenic Republic of Greece, (herewithin Greece) is a constitutional republic and multiparty parliamentary democracy. It is situated in the far south of the Balkans, along the Mediterranean Sea in South-Eastern Europe. It is bordered by Bulgaria, the Republic of North Macedonia, and Albania to the north; the Ionian Sea to the West; the Mediterranean Sea to the South; and the Aegean Sea and Turkey to the East.¹ Greece has an aging population; with 21.8% of people over the age of 65, Greece also has the second oldest population in the European Union (EU) as of 2019, behind Italy (22.6%) and ahead of Portugal (21.5%).² Of Greece's 10,522,000 people, children number 1,796,000, making up just 17% of the population.³

Greek is the official language and is used in the entire territory and at all levels of education.⁴ The Muslim minority, who reside predominantly in the region of Thrace, number approximately 1% of

the total population of Greece and are of Turkish, Pomak and Roma origin.⁵ Government operated schools are available for the Muslim minority, where teaching takes place in the Turkish and the Greek language at the same time.⁶

The global financial crisis which began in late 2007 had a catastrophic, painful and protracted effect on Greece's economy.⁷ Greece was left with a crippling debt burden, which also plunged the country into a state of political instability. The fiscal crisis of 2009, evolved into a sovereign debt crisis in 2010-13, followed by years of economic stagnation.⁸ Greece entered a period of severe austerity measures and high unemployment, and the country was forced to sign up to a string of international bailouts, only recently exiting this programme in August 2018.⁹ The highest unemployment rate in Greece was seen in September 2013 with 27.8% of the population unemployed - to put this in perspective, in May 2008 before the crash, Greece's unemployment rate was 7.3%.¹⁰

The social costs of the economic crash on children cannot be understated.¹¹ Child poverty increased

significantly.¹² A UNICEF report found that in 2015, 18% of families lived below the threshold of extreme poverty.^{13,14} Poverty risks were highest amongst children aged 12-17, smaller families and jobless households with children (an extreme poverty rate of over 90% was seen in this third group).¹⁵ Globally, poverty and inequality are associated with underlying causes of sexual exploitation of children.¹⁶ Along these lines, evidence suggests that in Greece, the economic crisis purportedly saw an increase in the number of child abuse cases.¹⁷ For example, the Paediatric hospital of Athens – the largest in the country – saw a 209% increase in case admissions from 2011 to 2014.¹⁸

Greece's pre-crash welfare state was already unable to cope with demand, resulting in social services being pushed to a breaking point during the austerity period; many of these services are still recovering today.¹⁹ In comparison to other countries in Europe, Greece's system of care is characterised by large scale institutionalisation.²⁰ In 2014, the European Commission noted Greece as one of 12 EU Member States in urgent need to implement deinstitutionalization reform.²¹ Positive steps have been taken by Greece, such as the new Foster Care Law, which will enable the development of family-based forms of care.²² However, in 2019, according to media reports, public prosecutors are still sending children who have experienced abuse and neglect to live in hospital-based care.²³ Global research on the effects of institutional care have demonstrated how long-term institutionalisation can severely impair cognitive and emotional development of children.²⁴ Furthermore, in the context of SEC and child abuse more broadly, there is evidence to suggest that this model can increase the risk of re-victimisation or increased vulnerability to abuse²⁵ – and in some cases this has been reported to occur in Greece.²⁶ Despite continued advocacy from practitioners and NGOs,²⁷ gaps still exist in Greece's child protection services that need urgent redress. Accessing support and care is always difficult for child victims of sexual exploitation,²⁸ but the added strains on Greek child protection services over the last decade have made this even more of a concern.



18%
OF FAMILIES
LIVED BELOW
THE THRESHOLD
OF EXTREME
POVERTY

**OVER
90%**
OF JOBLESS
HOUSEHOLDS
WITH CHILDREN
LIVED BELOW THE
POVERTY LINE

1 Visit Greece. *Geography*.
2 Eurostat. (2019, July). *Population structure and ageing: statistics explained*.
3 UNICEF. (2019, October). *State of the World's Children 2019*. 193. New York: UNICEF.
4 BBC. (n.d). *Greece: Languages across Europe*.
5 EURYDICE European Commission. (2019, June 5). *Population: Demographic Situation, Languages and Religion*. European Commission.
6 Liagkis, M. (2015). *Religious Education in Greece – Orthodox Christianity, Islam and Secularism*. 47. European Journal of Social Sciences Education and Research. 5 (1).
7 BBC News. (2019, July 8). *Greece country profile*.
8 Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d). *Greece's Debt*.
9 Walker, A. (2018, August 19). *Eurozone bailout programme is finally over*. BBC News.
10 CEIC Data. (n.d). *Greece Unemployment Rate*.
11 UN Human Rights Council. (2016, February 22). *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 : [Universal Periodic Review] : Greece*. 2.

12 Matsaganis, M (2017) "The Impact of the Great Recession on Child Poverty in Greece" in UNICEF. (2017) *Children of Austerity*.
13 Defined as the proportion of persons living in families unable to purchase a basket of basic necessities, adequate to sustain a family just about destitution level, without dissaving or running into debt.
14 Matsaganis, M (2017). "The Impact of the Great Recession on Child Poverty in Greece" in UNICEF. (2017) *Children of Austerity*. 103.
15 *Ibid*.
16 ECPAT International. (2016, March) *Power, Impunity and Anonymity*. 43. ECPAT International: Bangkok
17 Psaropoulos, J. (2014, March 29) *Greece child abuse rises as economy falters*. Aljazeera; See also Batha, E (2012, December 2). *Greek police report spike in domestic abuse cases*. Thomson Reuters Foundation News; Killinikaki, T *Child Protection in Times of Crisis in Greece*. 181-183.
18 Kolaitis, G., & Giannakopoulos, G. (2014). *Greek financial crisis and child mental health*. *The Lancet Journal*, 9991, 335.
19 Matsaganis, M (2017) "The Impact of the Great Recession on Child Poverty in Greece" in UNICEF. (2017) *Children of Austerity*. 114.
20 Nikoladis, G. (2016). *Future Objectives for child protection in Greece*. Lumos.
21 European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community Based Care. (2014, June). *Toolkit on the use of European Union Funds for the Transition from institutional to community -based care*. 22.
22 *Law 4538/2018*.
23 DW Made for Minds. (2019, June 23). *Greece's hospitals are ill-suited homes for kids*.
24 Williamson, J., Greenberg, A. (2010). *Families, not orphanages*. Better Care Network.
25 Nikoladis, G. (2016). *Future Objectives for child protection in Greece*. Lumos.
26 Institute of Child Health Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare. (2017, March). *The child institutional abuse: current knowledge and practices Greece Report*. 11.
27 Nikolaidis, G. (2016, July 3). *Future objectives for child protection in Greece*. Lumos; Nanou, K (2015). *Mapping institutional and residential care for children in Greece*. Roots Research Centre.
28 The Greek Ombudsman. (2012, April). *Parallel Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: Findings and Report of the Independent Authority "the Greek Ombudsman" on the implementation of Children's Rights in Greece*. 7.

Since the financial crisis, unemployment rates have been improving (16.9% in July 2019).²⁹ However, Greece still has the largest youth unemployment rates in the EU at 33%³⁰ and poverty rates are still extremely high.³¹ During the economic crash, youth unemployment was at an all-time high of 59.6%.³²

Minority and marginalized groups were hit particularly hard by the financial crisis. Already marginalized, the Roma in Greece are known to face discrimination, lack of education, inadequate housing conditions, risk of poverty, social exclusion, disproportionate high school dropout rates and police violence.³³ In Greece, the Roma population are not officially recognized or protected as a minority.³⁴ Due to a number of factors, including language barriers, and lack of awareness on sexual education, children belonging to minority or marginalised groups may face additional vulnerabilities to sexual exploitation.³⁵ Studies across countries in Europe have indicated how low levels of education, early school drop-outs and high illiteracy rates among Roma children have made them far more vulnerable to trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse.³⁶ Reportedly, in Greece, negative stereotypes and cultural biases against Roma people include perceiving child begging cases as “culturally ingrained practices”; these cases rarely lead to interventions as the population do not usually perceive the risk of exploitation for this group of children.³⁷ This is

often exacerbated by characterisations in the media which perpetuate negative stereotypes by portraying Roma as synonymous with criminal marginality.³⁸ Further still, they face institutional based discrimination within the criminal justice system.³⁹

In 2016, the European Commission estimated school attendance by Roma children of compulsory school age in Greece at only 69%.⁴⁰ In some cases, Roma children are kept in *de facto* segregated educational environments,⁴¹ following opposition by the parents of non-Roma pupils to integrated schooling.⁴² Additionally, children who live in isolated communities have to travel great lengths in order to get to school, acting as a further deterrent in achieving educational attainment.⁴³ A lack of education and early school dropout, places children at greater risk of exploitation; for girls in particular it can lead to an increase in risk of child, early and forced marriage.⁴⁴

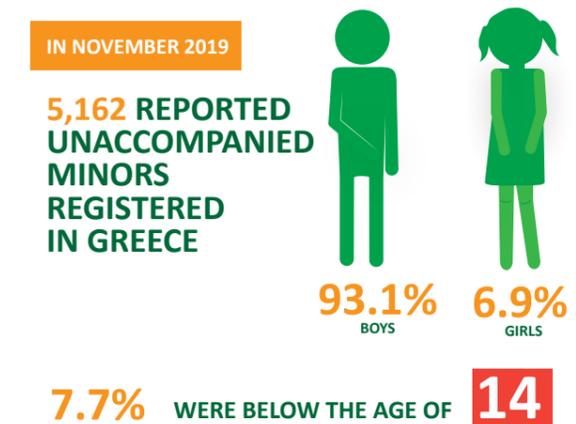
It is widely held that humanitarian situations escalate the risk of sexual exploitation and violence which children are already exposed to during times of peace and stability.⁴⁵ In 2015, Greece, became the epicentre of a humanitarian crisis.⁴⁶ The strong migratory pressure traditionally facing Greece due to its geographic position at the external border of the EU hit breaking point when it became the entrance way to Europe for hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing war, violence and

persecution in the Middle East.⁴⁷ The migrant crisis, exacerbated an already precarious financial situation, placing a great burden and strain on Greece’s unstable economy.⁴⁸

Following a number of regional political developments including the closing of borders with Greece by key Balkan countries: Austria, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia, Greece transitioned from a short-term transit country to a long term host country.⁴⁹ The European Union Deal with Turkey in 2016, introduced as a mechanism to reduce the number of migrants and refugees arriving in Greece from Turkey and continuing to Europe, left many refugees and migrants stranded in detention centres on five Greek islands: Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos.⁵⁰ Athens, Tessaaloniki and the surrounding areas, are also populated by migrants who arrived prior to the EU-Turkey deal and have been forced to remain due to the closure of borders.⁵¹

Conditions within the many refugee camps have left children vulnerable to all forms of abuse⁵² and exploitation.⁵³ According to statistics from EKKA (the National Centre of Social Solidarity), as of 15 November 2019, there were 5,162 reported unaccompanied minors registered in Greece, 93.1% of these were boys, 6.9% girls and 7.7% were below the age of 14.⁵⁴ This figure clearly shows the gender divide of unaccompanied minors in Greece and explains the high number of SEC-related cases amongst boys noted in this report.

Research carried out on unaccompanied children highlights their increased risk of exploitation as they can be victimized by adults and, for those held in detention facilities, by other unaccompanied children.⁵⁵ Similarly in Greece, continued reports of oversaturated facilities compounded by limited resources have left these children vulnerable to exploitation. Numerous reports of sexual abuse, violent assaults, harassment and humiliation in camps on the Greek islands demonstrate the impact of current living conditions on children’s security and safety.⁵⁶ Importantly, out of the 5,162 reported unaccompanied minors in Greece, 1,246 children are reported as “living in informal/insecure housing conditions such as living temporarily in apartments with others, living in squats, being homeless and moving frequently between different types of accommodation”.⁵⁷ These children, when homeless and forced to live on the street, are at a heightened risk of abuse and exploitation.⁵⁸ Research has widely documented homelessness as a key factor in shaping children’s vulnerability to sexual exploitation.⁵⁹



29 Trading Economics. (n.d). *Greece Unemployment Rate*.
 30 EUROSTAT. (2019, June). *Unemployment Statistics*; Mackenzie, J. (2019, July 5) *Young people have suffered the most in Greece’s economic collapse*. BBC News.
 31 Caravassa, A (n.d) *Greece’s debt crisis leaves nation hungry and children malnourished*. DW.
 32 Trading Economics. (2019) *Greece Youth Unemployment Rate*.
 33 Hellenic Republic: Ministry of Labour and Social Security. (2011, December). *National Strategic Framework for Roma*. 3-4; United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. (2015, May 12). *UN expert on racism urges Greece to reinforce the fight against hate speech and incitement to violence*.
 34 The Law Library Congress. (2012, October). *Greece Status of Minorities*. 13. Contrastingly to most Roma Collectives in Europe, the Greek Roma Collectives view their Greek national identity as non-negotiable and instead prefer that the State recognises them as a vulnerable and marginalised group who face socio-economic oppression.
 35 ECPAT International. (2016, March). *Power, Impunity and Anonymity*. 40.
 36 Center for the Study of Democracy. (2015). *Child trafficking among vulnerable Roma communities: results of country studies in Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia*. 13.
 37 *Ibid*. 13
 38 Kirathi, E. (2018, September 16). *Roma In Greece: Another Story of Invisibility*. Medium.
 39 ARSIS. (2019, July). Personal Communication; See also Council of Europe. (2018). *Council of Europe Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travelers (2016-2019) – Implementing the Action Plan - for steps taken to address discrimination in the criminal justice system*.
 40 Mijatovic, D. (2018). *Report of the Commission for Human Rights of the Council of Europe: Following her visit to Greece*. 24.
 41 Institute of Social Policy National Centre for Social Research – EKKE. (2011). *Greece Promoting the Social Inclusion of Roma: A Study of National Policies*. 13; Amnesty International (2013, May). *European Court again chides Greece over discrimination against Roma schoolchildren*
 42 Mijatovic, D. (2018). *Report of the Commission for Human Rights of the Council of Europe: Following her visit to Greece*. 24.
 43 *Ibid*.
 44 ECPAT International. (2015). *Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage*. 36.
 45 UNICEF (2019, January). *Humanitarian Action for Children: Overview*.
 46 Cabot, H. (2018, October 4). *The European Refugee Crisis and Humanitarian Citizenship in Greece*. Journal of Anthropology. 1.

47 Amnesty International. (2015, June 25). *Greece: Humanitarian crisis mounts as a refugee support system pushed to breaking point*.
 48 Cavounidis, J. (2018, November 21). *The migration experience of Greece and the impact of the economic crisis on its migrant and native populations*. European Journal of Public Health, Volume 28. 22-23.
 49 Kinglesy, P (2016, March 9). *Balkan countries shut borders as attention turns to new refugee routes*. The Guardian.
 50 Myers, S and Aoun, I. (2017). *A tide of self-harm and depression, The EU- Turkey Deal’s devastating impact on child refugees and migrants*. 4-8. Save the Children.
 51 Kitsantonis, N. (2019, April 15). *Rumors of Open Border Prompt Migrant Protests in Greece*. New York Times.
 52 Medicens Sans Frontiers. (2018, September 17) *Self-harm and attempted suicides increasing for child refugees in Lesbos*. Human Rights Watch. (2018, July 27). *Greece: Inhumane conditions at Land Border*.
 53 Council of Europe (2019, February 19). *Report to the Greek Government on the visit to Greece carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)*. 55.
 54 EKKA. (2019, November). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece*.
 55 Warbuton, J. (2016). *Preventing the sexual exploitation of children: A mapping of practice and interventions*. ECPAT International Journal. 11. 4-24
 56 European Committee of Social Rights. (2018, December 21). *International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) v. Greece Complaint No. 173/2018*. 47.
 57 EKKA. (2019, November). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece*.
 58 *Ibid*.
 59 Dwomoh, Ivy and Dinolfo, E (2018, October). *Effects of Homelessness on Children*. 39/10.

The Context of the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Greece

EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN PROSTITUTION⁶⁰

Article 2 (b) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) defines 'child prostitution' as "the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration".⁶¹

Reports of exploitation of children in prostitution have increased in Greece since the migration crisis in 2015. International organizations, NGOs and volunteers have raised concerns of the number of unaccompanied migrant boys and girls who are now actively engaging in their own exploitation by using prostitution as a means to survive.⁶² Criminal gangs are also allegedly operating in some of the camps and have forced children into prostitution.⁶³

Related to the much larger proportion of boy refugees found in Greece, research suggests that in Greece, exploitation of children in prostitution disproportionately affects unaccompanied migrant boys who are forced to engage in transactional sex – viewing it as the only way to continue their journey through Europe.⁶⁴ Many of these boys are from Afghani origin.⁶⁵ Examinations into similar contexts suggest that Afghani boys may be particularly vulnerable to engaging in transactional sex due to the greater social tolerance of the sexual exploitation of young boys rather than girls in some areas of Afghanistan.⁶⁶ Anecdotal evidence shows that a smaller number of unaccompanied migrants forced to engage in prostitution come from Iran, Iraq, Syria and Bangladesh.⁶⁷ Research is urgently needed to better understand this form of exploitation. A 2017 academic article highlighted the lack of gender-specific research, policy guidance, and evidence of best practices related to interventions preventing the sexual exploitation of boys in Greece.⁶⁸

According to on report many are lured into the sex trade with promises of high fees, although in reality, transactions rarely exceed 15 euros per exchange.⁶⁹ This amount of money makes it very unlikely that they will raise sufficient funds to leave Greece via people smugglers. Furthermore, many end up getting drawn into a cycle of drug abuse - as one child migrant described in a media interview "I wanted to make progress, I wanted a future...with the drugs...and what I'm doing [transactional sex], I'm not going anywhere. My mind is destroyed."⁷⁰ Reports suggest that other migrants (the age of whom is not specified), often act as intermediaries between children and perpetrators, facilitating their transaction.⁷¹ Mobile phones allow for plans to be made efficiently and undetected⁷² and dating apps have reportedly made the process easier for children to engage in their own exploitation through prostitution.⁷³ Reportedly, perpetrators are often older men or sex tourists who visit Athens with the intent of meeting young boys, having already connected with them through the Internet.⁷⁴



DATING APPS HAVE REPORTEDLY MADE THE PROCESS EASIER FOR CHILDREN TO ENGAGE IN THEIR OWN EXPLOITATION THROUGH PROSTITUTION

Although the extent and prevalence of child sexual exploitation in Greece is difficult to ascertain,

informants noted that exploitation of children in prostitution occurs in both rural and urban settings,⁷⁵ with most instances occurring in Thessaloniki and Athens.⁷⁶ In Athens, the sexual exploitation of refugee children has been a concern raised by locals and documented through direct testimonies of migrant children.⁷⁷ Two areas that are renowned for these abusive activities are Athens' main square – Victoria Square and *Pedion tou areos*, the largest public park in Athens.⁷⁸ Due to its proximity to the main departure area for buses traveling towards the northern borders of Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia, Victoria Square became a central meeting point during the humanitarian crisis. *Pedion tou areos*, on the other hand was already an epicentre of the drug and sex trade predominantly due to its size and the protection from detection that trees and foliage offer.⁷⁹ Strikingly, in a report conducted by CARE on unaccompanied migrants in refugee contexts, all the young boy refugees interviewed in Greece testified that they had either been directly approached or know friends who had been asked by men for sexual favours.⁸⁰

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (OCSE)

Online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) can include child sexual abuse/exploitation material (CSAM/CSEM),⁸¹ live streaming of child sexual abuse, online grooming of children for sexual purposes, sexual extortion of children and various CSAM/CSEM-related conducts (production, distribution,

60 ECPAT prefers the term 'exploitation of children in prostitution' instead of 'child prostitution' in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children. (2016, January 28). *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*. 30. Bangkok: ECPAT International.

61 UN General Assembly. (2000, May 25). *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*. (A/RES/54/263). Art. 2(b).

62 Horner, W. (2017, January 16). *Afghan asylum seekers resort to sex work in Athens*. Aljazeera; Digidiki, V and Bhabha, J. (2017, April 17). *Emergency within an Emergency: The Growing Epidemic of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children in Greece*. Harvard FXB.

63 Harris, M. (2016, May 20). *Heart wrenching Allegations of Child Prostitution at Elliniko Refugee Hotspot*. Greek Reporter; Smith, H (2016, August 20). *Refugees in Greek camps targeted by mafia gangs*

64 Freccero J, Biswas D, Whiting A, Alrabe K, Seelinger KT. (2017). *Sexual exploitation of unaccompanied migrant and refugee boys in Greece: Approaches to prevention*. PLoS Med 14(11).

65 U.S Department of State. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 213.

66 UNICEF France. (2016). *Neither safe nor sound: Unaccompanied children on the coastline of the English Channel and the North Sea*. 23.

67 Digidiki, V and Bhabha, J. (2017, April 17). *Emergency within an Emergency: The Growing Epidemic of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children in Greece*. 24; Harvard FXB.; UNICEF and REACH. (2017, June) *Children on the Move in Italy and Greece*. 3.

68 Freccero, J et al. (2017, November 22). *Sexual exploitation of unaccompanied migrant and refugee boys in Greece: Approaches to prevention*. 1. Plos Medicine.

69 Digidiki, V and Bhabha, J. (2017, April 17). *Emergency within an Emergency: The Growing Epidemic of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children in Greece*. 26. Harvard FXB.

70 News Deeply. (2016, July 14) Ali, 17, Afghanistan. Interview conducted by Daniel Howden, 'No Way out for Refugee Kids Selling Themselves in Athens'.

71 *Ibid*. 26.

72 *Ibid*. 25-26.

73 Campana, F. (2018, September 24). *Some refugees use Grindr to find love – and money*. Global Post.

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75 Digidiki, V and Bhabha, J. (2017, April 17). *Emergency within an Emergency: The Growing Epidemic of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children in Greece*. 8. Harvard FXB.

76 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal Communication.

77 (2016, July 14) Ali, 17, Afghanistan. Interview conducted by Daniel Howden, "Refugees Deeply, Refugees caught up in child prostitution in Athens'.

78 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.

79 Digidiki, V and Bhabha, J. (2017, April 17). *Emergency within an Emergency: The Growing Epidemic of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children in Greece*. 24. Harvard FXB.

80 Brun, D. (2018). *Men and boys in displacement Assistance and protection challenges for unaccompanied boys and men in refugee contexts*. 11. CARE.

81 ECPAT prefers the terms 'child sexual exploitation material' or 'child sexual abuse material', but in a legal context still uses 'child pornography' in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines, 40.

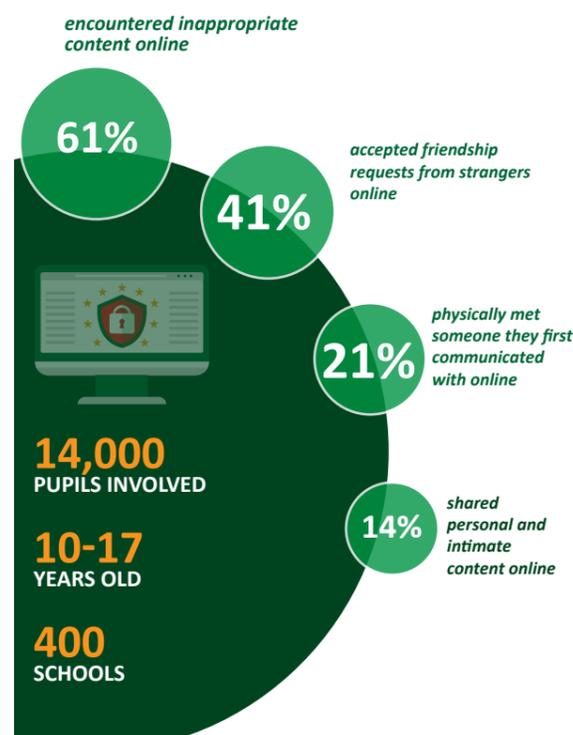
downloading).⁸² Article 2 (c) of the OPSC defines ‘child pornography’ as “any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes”.⁸³

Globally, although conducive to innovation and development, the increase in Internet availability can also lead to heightened risks of online child sexual exploitation.⁸⁴ Misuse of technology has radically altered the ways in which children are exploited as the presence of millions of children online has made it easier for offenders to groom victims. Advances in technology have allowed perpetrators to distribute child sexual abuse material more easily and extensively.⁸⁵ As of 2018, over 72.9% of the population was using the Internet in Greece⁸⁶ and there was a recorded 115.67 mobile phones per 100 people.⁸⁷ Statistics from 2017 showed that there was a total of 5 million Facebook subscribers.⁸⁸ Being a highly connected country, it can be assumed that Greek children are at risk of online child sexual exploitation.

Unfortunately, the exact scale of OCSE is unknown in Greece. An analysis of the phone calls received by Safe Line, a reporting hotline for illegal material on the Internet operating since 2003, shows that over the period 2011-2018 the number of calls reporting CSAM that were able to be translated into actionable reports, increased at an average annual rate of 2.3% per year.⁸⁹

A 2018 study conducted by the Greek Safer Internet Centre raises a number of concerns for parents, educators and decision makers. The survey involved 14,000 pupils aged 10-17 years in 400 schools in Athens, Thessaloniki, Hereaklion Crete, Patras and Larissa. Particularly noteworthy figures include: 41% of students accepted friendship requests from strangers online; 21% of children have physically met someone they met

online; and 14% of students shared personal and intimate content online; 61% have encountered inappropriate content online.⁹⁰ The report further highlighted the lack of understanding amongst parents of the risks that can exist to children online. To address OCSE and other forms of SEC, it is imperative that parents, teachers and service providers are equipped with information about risks and strategies to reduce children’s vulnerability. Fortunately, Greece has taken some significant steps to educate both parents and children on the dangers of OCSE and has engaged in a number of regional initiatives (discussed in section 3).



Recent research has focused on the interplay between technology and migration, sparked in particular during the 2015 migrant influx.⁹¹ For the most part, technology has positively led to interconnectivity and opportunity, enabling migrants to keep in touch with loved ones, locate vital resources and provide access to real-time

information. However, there is also a darker side where technology is used to prey on their vulnerabilities and fuel exploitation, placing unaccompanied minors in particular at greater risk of abuse.⁹² Reports suggest that technology has played a crucial role in the recruitment of migrant children into the sex trade in Greece.⁹³ Mobile phones have allowed for easier channels of communication between human traffickers and smugglers.⁹⁴ Interestingly, one study conducted in Greece showed that male migrants are more likely to own a mobile phone than their female counterparts.⁹⁵ This increased access to technology that boys enjoy could be an increased risk factor for vulnerability to exploitation through prostitution.

SALE AND TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), defines ‘trafficking in persons’ as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or

other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.⁹⁶

In case of child victims, Article 3 (c) of the Protocol specifies that “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered ‘trafficking in persons’ even if it does not involve any of the means stipulated in Article 3 (a)”.⁹⁷ In other words, the Protocol recognises that children can never be willing participants to their own exploitation.

For its part, the OPSC deals with the ‘sale of children’, defined as “any act or transaction whereby a child is transferred by any person or group of persons to another for remuneration or any other consideration”.⁹⁸

Both concepts are often used in conjunction and without any clear distinction. However, despite a certain overlap, ‘sale of children’ is not identical to ‘trafficking’. The ‘sale of children’ always involves some form of commercial transaction, which trafficking in children does not require, but does not necessarily include the purpose of exploiting a child (e.g. sale of children for illegal adoption). Therefore, ‘sale of children’ is not necessarily related to sexual abuse and sexual or other forms of exploitation. Lastly, the ‘sale of children’ can take place without physically moving the child out of his/her social environment, whereas trafficking inherently depends on the movement of the child.⁹⁹

82 ECPAT International. (n.d.). *Issues we work on*. Bangkok: ECPAT International.

83 OPSC, Article 2(c).

84 ECPAT International. (April 2018). *Trends in online child sexual abuse material*. 6–7.

85 *Ibid.*

86 ITU. (2018). *Country ICT Data – Percentage of individuals using the Internet*

87 ITU. (2018). *Country ICT Data- Mobile-cellular subscriptions*

88 Internet World Stats. (2017). *Greece, data as December 2017*

89 Safe Line. (2018) *Annual Report*

90 Greek Safer Internet Centre. (2018) *Online Behaviour of Students Aged 10-17 years old in Greece Survey 2018*. Safer Internet 4 Kids.

91 Srivastavia, L. (2016, June 29). *The If and When of Technology for the Global Refugee Crisis*;

92 McAuliffe, M. (2018, December 14) *The link between migration and technology is not what you think*.

93 ARSIS. (2019, June), Personal communication.; Digidiki, V and Bhabha, J. (2017, April 17) *Emergency within an Emergency: The Growing Epidemic of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children in Greece*. 27. Harvard FXB.

94 Frouws, B, Phillips, M, Hassan, A, Twig, M (2016, June) *Briefing Paper 2: Getting to Europe the ‘Whatsapp Way’ – The Use of ICT in contemporary migrant flows to Europe*. 7; Danish Refugee Centre. (2018, December 20). *How has digital technology changed migrants’ lives?*

95 Latenero, M and Poole, D. (2018, March). *Refugee Connectivity: A survey of mobile phones, mental health, and privacy at a Syrian refugee camp in Greece*.

96 UN General Assembly. (2000, November 15). *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Annex 2: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol)*. Res. 55/25 of 15. Art. 3 (a).

97 *Ibid.*, Article 3 (c).

98 OPSC, Article 2 (b).

99 ECPAT International. (2016, January 28). *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*. 58.

Greece is a Tier 2 country, as defined by the 2019 US State Department's Trafficking in Persons report, which means the country does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.¹⁰⁰ It is predominantly a country of destination and transit of victims of trafficking in human beings, but to a certain degree, also a country of origin.¹⁰¹ According to the 2019 US State Department's Trafficking in Persons report, women and children from Eastern and Southern Europe, South Asia, Russia, Nigeria and China have been subjected to sex trafficking in unlicensed brothels, on the street, in strip clubs, in massage establishments and in hotels.¹⁰²

As has been mentioned, the economic crisis and the austerity programmes adopted in Greece since 2009 led to high unemployment and deregulation of the job market. In turn, family financial hardships increased children's vulnerability and susceptibility to exploitation,¹⁰³ particularly those from minority, migrant¹⁰⁴ and marginalised groups.¹⁰⁵ This has been further exacerbated by the migrant crisis; the number of unaccompanied child migrants in Greece has increased the number of children susceptible to being trafficked.¹⁰⁶ Most migrants and asylum seekers are believed to rely on smugglers at some point during their journey and in some instances are forced into exploitation upon arrival in Greece.¹⁰⁷

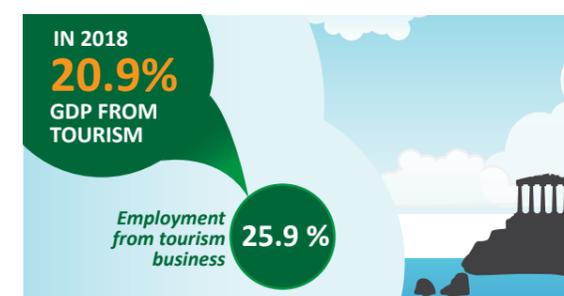
The 2019 US State Department's Trafficking in Persons report highlights the phenomenon of children, mainly of Roma origin, from Albania, Bulgaria and Romania who have been trafficked into Greece.¹⁰⁸ Due to a number of interconnected socio-economic factors including but not limited to, poverty, social marginalization and some cultural practices, Roma children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking.¹⁰⁹ Whilst, mostly these cases involve forced begging and engagement in petty crime there have also been reports of the sale and trafficking of Roma boys and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation.¹¹⁰ Sometimes, family members are complicit in this form of abuse and exploitation.¹¹¹ A reliance on children to be actively contributing to the household income, has led to the involvement of children in activities that could expose them to risks of exploitation.¹¹² Furthermore, a lack of birth/civil registration amongst Roma communities makes children particularly vulnerable as it makes it difficult for authorities to identify if an accompanying adult is their parent or guardian.¹¹³

Available information points towards a higher proportion of Roma girls than boys that have been identified as victims.¹¹⁴ However, limited data or reporting on forms of trafficking, particularly in relation to sexual exploitation of boys, should not be taken as an indication that the issue does not exist in Greece but should more be seen in a context where the sexual exploitation of boys is an under-researched phenomenon.¹¹⁵

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM (SECTT)

The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) is defined as any "acts of sexual exploitation embedded in a context of travel, tourism, or both".¹¹⁶ The UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics recognises that the exploitation of children conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and should be strongly combated with the cooperation of all the States concerned.¹¹⁷

Even during the adversity of the economic crash and the humanitarian crisis, Greece has continued to be one of Europe's major tourist destinations. Indeed, tourism has played a pivotal role in its economic recovery and improved employment within the country. In 2018, tourism represented 20.9% of the GDP and 25.9% of employment within the country.¹¹⁸ Data from the World Travel and Tourism Council shows that the top 4 inbound arrivals for the purposes of tourism are from: Germany (13%), United Kingdom (11%), Bulgaria (9%), and North Macedonia (8%).¹¹⁹



Despite the centrality of tourism to Greece's economy, there is a scarcity of data and lack of understanding of the scale of SECTT. Whilst the media has noted tourists employing the services of adult sex workers in Greece,¹²⁰ information on the sexual exploitation of children in this context is limited. Concerns of SECTT rose to prominence during the 2004 Athens Olympic games, marking one of the first instances of a major international sporting event which invoked public concern about the dangers of exploitation and trafficking that can accompany such mega-events.¹²¹ However, despite the unprecedented attention this attracted internationally, there is still insufficient evidence gathered to draw conclusions as to the scale and scope of how children may be affected by SECTT.¹²²

In 2016, the Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of children in Travel and Tourism identified Greece and Montenegro as potential destinations for SECTT within the Balkan region.¹²³ However, only a few incidences of child sexual offences committed by tourists and travellers have been reported or identified. A spate of media reports around 2013-2014 exposed incidents of sexual exploitation of children by perpetrators from Bulgaria,¹²⁴ Netherlands¹²⁵ and Russia.¹²⁶ A report in 2015 also suggested that some Greeks visited Ukraine to exploit children.¹²⁷ More recently, in 2019, the conviction of Nikos Georgiadis, a former MP, sparked national controversy when he was found guilty of paying minors in Moldova for sex.¹²⁸ In 2018, a media report cited instances of sexual exploitation of children in prostitution in Mykonos, facilitated by foreign tax evasion and short-term rentals.¹²⁹ As previously mentioned, following interviews conducted by CARE, evidence suggested that some tourists travelled to Greece specifically to sexually exploit young migrant boys.¹³⁰

100 U.S State Department. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 213

101 Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) (2017) *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. 11.

102 U.S State Department. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 213.

103 Smith, H. (2011). *Greek economic crisis turns tragic for children abandoned by their families*

104 Freitas, J. (2015, July 3). *The tragedy of young migrants in austerity hit Greece*. New Internationalist.

105 Inbernizzi, A. (2011). *Vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking of Bulgarian children and adolescents in Greece*.

106 U.S State Department. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 213

107 *Ibid.*

108 *Ibid.*

109 Council of Europe. (2015). *Final Report of the CAHROM thematic group of experts on addressing and combatting human trafficking within Roma communities (with a focus on prostitution and street children)*. 32. See Also - Inbernizzi, A (2011) *Vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking of Bulgarian children and adolescents in Greece*. 46.

110 Anagnostou, D and Kandyla, A. (2015, February) *National Report: Greece*. European Commission. 27-28; Information also provided by ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal Communication.

111 *Ibid.*

112 Inbernizzi, A (2011). *Vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking of Bulgarian children and adolescents in Greece*. 46... See also Anagnostou, D and Kandyla, A. (2015, February) *National Report: Greece*. European Commission. 7.

113 Centre for the Study of Democracy. (2015) *Child Trafficking among vulnerable Roma Communities*.

114 This information comes from COMPACT report – this information was gathered through interviews conducted with local NGO's.

115 Anagnostou, D and Kandyla, A. (2015, February). *National Report: Greece*. European Commission. 11

116 ECPAT International, Defence for Children, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. (2016, May). *Offenders on the Move: Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*.

117 UNWTO. (2019). *UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics*. UN Doc. A/RES/707(XXII). Art. 5 (3).

118 World Travel and Tourism Council. (2019) *Greece: 2019 Annual Research Key Highlights*. [Accessed through WTTC Country Analysis page]

119 *Ibid.*

120 Reid, R. (2015, November 13). *Prostitution: the hidden cost of Greece's economic crisis*. Telegraph

121 Gaplin, R (2004, June 21). *Fears of Athens sex slave boom*. BBC News.

122 ECPAT International. (2016). *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of children in Travel and Tourism: Regional Report Europe*. 61.

123 *Ibid.*

124 News Bomb. (2014, May 16) *Paedophiles in 32 countries have been located by Hellenic Police in Internet*.

125 ECPAT International. (2016). *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of children in Travel and Tourism: Regional Report Europe*. 61. ECPAT International: Bangkok.

126 Zougla. (2013, November 6). *A Russian Priest is accused of paedophilia in Greece*.

127 La Strada Ukraine. (2014). *Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction*. 14-25.

128 Documento. (2019, February 26). *Kyriakos Mitsotakis' top advisor, Nikos Georgiadis, Guilty for Sexual Child Abuse*

129 Thestival. (2018, August 13). *Complaint about child prostitution in Mykonos – "It's been known what's happening on the island for a long time"*.

130 Brun, D. (2018). *Men and boys in displacement Assistance and protection challenges for unaccompanied boys and men in refugee contexts*. 11. CARE

In 2013 Greece introduced the Golden Visa System,¹³¹ a policy whereby investors can obtain a residence permit, which reportedly led to an exponential growth in investors from Russia, Turkey, the Middle East and China.¹³² The first eight months of 2018 alone saw Greece granting 3154 of these visas; the majority of these went to Chinese investors, followed by Russians and Turks who are pouring billions into the tourism sector through the development of hotel and resort projects.¹³³ Whilst investment on this scale and growth in the tourism industry is undoubtedly beneficial to the Greek economy; rapid growth in the tourism sector without commensurate regulation can facilitate increased instances of sexual exploitation of children.¹³⁴ With Greece set to achieve an ambitious strategic target of 35 million tourist arrivals by 2021,¹³⁵ the government needs to ensure they also implement a prevention strategy to mitigate the risk of exploitation of Greek children vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The onus on the government to implement this strategy becomes even more important when contextualized within the current migrant crisis and the high numbers of unaccompanied minors who may be exploited through prostitution.

The rise of the “sharing economy”, which allows travellers to share or exchange accommodation and other services online, largely unregulated by government, may offer unmonitored channels for perpetrating sex crimes against vulnerable children.¹³⁶ In Greece, the home-sharing sector makes up 10% of total tourist spending, generating revenues of about 1.9 billion euros and growing at an annual rate of about 25%.¹³⁷ In 2019, a case of a family who discovered eight cameras in their Airbnb in Greece¹³⁸ raised international concerns and added to the debate around limited regulations governing home-sharing platforms which could have obvious implications for the sexual exploitation of children.¹³⁹

This overview did not identify any concrete measures taken by the government to protect children from the threats to sexual exploitation that may be present in the travel and tourism context. As of November 2019 no Greek companies have become members of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from SECTT (although several international private companies operating in Greece are members).¹⁴⁰ The Code is a multisector initiative to provide awareness, tools and support to companies in the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.¹⁴¹

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM)

The Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Luxembourg Guidelines) define ‘child marriage’ as “a marriage in which at least one of the parties is a child. It also refers to the act of marrying off children, usually young girls, with or without their consent”.¹⁴² Some forms of child marriage are related to commercial sexual exploitation of children, in cases where child marriage is linked to forced child labour, slavery and bondage, servitude or payment of a dowry.¹⁴³

There is no publically available data on child, early and forced marriage in Greece. Despite the government’s commitment to eliminate the practice by 2030 in line with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, very little is known about the issue. In the 2019 UNICEF monitoring of countries’ effectiveness in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals’ related to child rights, no data was available for Greece stating the proportion of women aged 18-

29 years who were married or in a union before 18.¹⁴⁴ Whilst child marriage is believed to occur within the Greek Muslim Roma communities, determining the number of cases proves difficult as these marriages are unregistered, thus are not part of any standard data collection system.¹⁴⁵ Furthermore, research that has been carried out on child, early and forced marriage within the Roma community is either outdated or has taken a European regional focus, thus lacking specificity of the Greek context. A 2014 report showed that around 2% of Roma girls aged 10-15 were traditionally married or cohabiting with a partner across 11 European Union member states, including Greece.¹⁴⁶ A 2011 report also identified the practice occurring in Thessaloniki.¹⁴⁷

Greek law operates under a dual judicial system whereby the Muslim minority in Greece, who largely reside in the region of Western Thrace, are allowed to apply *Shariah* law in some circumstances and can be subject to the judicial and religious competence of the Mufti.¹⁴⁸ In these conditions, child marriage is allowed under cases where the girl is pregnant and both families agree to the marriage. Although Greek Law forbids child marriage, in these areas the practice is allowed to continue. Child, early and/or forced marriages reportedly occur among Roma communities and the Muslim community of Thrace for reasons including virginity, family/clan relationships and poverty.¹⁴⁹ Often, heavily rooted in traditional

patriarchal and paternalistic values, the issue of marriage can depend on a collective decision rather than an individual one, due to the embedded beliefs around family.¹⁵⁰ In some cases, there have been prosecutions against those involved in CEFM but these are few.¹⁵¹ A case from 2004, where a 20-year old man and an 11-year old girl, both Greek Muslim Roma were married, highlights an instance of this occurring. Limited already by social inequality and their poor socioeconomic status, girls’ rights are further hindered when they are forced to marry.¹⁵²

Research suggests that children on the move are increasingly vulnerable to CEFM. This can be attributed to the absence of regular supportive networks when moving and an increase in sexual violence in unstable contexts. Child marriage can also be perceived as a protective measure by families concerned with social norms around morality.¹⁵³ In regards to the migrant crisis in Greece, inconclusive evidence exists documenting CEFM, although some NGO workers and medical staff have raised concerns of its occurrence.¹⁵⁴ Similarly, although contextually different, available studies also show that child marriage is a factor in driving migration to Greece. In 2017, a UNICEF study shows that one in five girls interviewed from countries in West Africa and the Horn of Africa who escaped to Greece left because they had experienced or feared forced marriage.¹⁵⁵

131 Enterprise Greece. (2019). *Residence Permits*.

132 Alderman, L. (2019, March 20). *In Greece, an Economic Revival Fuelled by ‘Golden Visas’ and Tourism*. The New York Times.

133 Fes, Nik. (2019, January 7). *Greek Real Estate Market Pushes the Tourism Industry Towards Growth*. Tourism Review News.

134 ECPAT International. (2016). *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*. 29

135 Enterprise Greece, Invest and Trade. (n.a) *Tourism Sector: A central pillar of the Greek economy*. Enterprise Greece: Athens

136 ECPAT International. (2016). *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*. 30; Guilbert, K. (2018, February) *EXCULSIVE – Airbnb vows to sex trafficking in rental homes*. Reuters.

137 Grant Thornton. (2019). *Οικονομία διαμοιρασμού: κοινωνικές επιπτώσεις και ρυθμιστικές παρεμβάσεις*.

138 Coffey, H. (2019, April 6). *Family finds hidden cameras in Airbnb Villa*. Independent.

139 Eturbo news. (2019, April 16). *National child safety advocate calls for ban on Airbnb hidden cameras*.

140 The Code. (n.d). *Members based in Greece*.

141 The Code. (n.d.). *About us*.

142 Terminology Guidelines, 63.

143 ECPAT International and Plan International. (2015) *(Thematic Report. Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage*.

144 UNICEF. (2019, July) *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era: Greece Overview*.

145 Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance. (2011). *Preventing Early Marriages*. 18.

146 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2014). *Addressing forced marriage in the EU: legal provisions and promising practices*. 13. FRA: Vienna.

147 Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance. (2011) *Preventing Early Marriages*. 163.

148 Law 147/1914, s.4; Law 1920/1991 - The Islamic Mufti who have jurisdiction, on family issues including marriage, divorce, alimony, custody guardianship, emancipation of minors, wills and inheritance. – Mufti’s are Muslim legal experts who are empowered to give rulings on religious matters

149 Froxylia, M. (2014, August). *Child Bride Practice amongst the Roma Population in Greece: The Greek Response to Child Bride Practice*. 32

150 *Ibid*.

151 Tsavouoglou, I. (2015) *The Legal Treatment of Muslim Minority Women under the Rule of Islam Law in Greece Thrace*. Oslo Law Review.

152 ECPAT International and Plan International. (2015, October). *Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage*. 29.

153 Notable research on this issue includes: UNICEF. (2016, September) *Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children*. 38.; and Girls Not Brides. (2016, June). *Child Marriage in Humanitarian crises*.

154 ARSIS. (June, 2019). Personal Communication; Digidiki, V and Bhabha, J. (2017, April 17). *Emergency within an Emergency: The Growing Epidemic of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children in Greece*. Harvard FXB.

155 UNICEF and REACH. (2017). *Children on the Move in Italy and Greece*. 31.

International, Regional and National Commitments and Legislation on the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Status of ratification of relevant international and regional instruments, reporting to human rights bodies and engagement with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council

International Instruments	Date of ratification/accession	
Convention on the Rights of the Child - 1989	11 May 1993	
Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography - 2000	22 February 2008	
ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - 1999 (No. 182)	6 November 2001	
UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and children – 2000 (supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime)	11 January 2011	
Regional Instruments	Date of ratification/accession	
Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse - Lanzarote Convention - 2007	10 March 2009	
Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime - Budapest Convention - 2001	25 January 2017	
Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings - 2005	11 April 2014	
Human Rights Bodies	Date of latest submitted report	Comments
Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC review)	21 December 2018	Greece will be under review during the 85 th Session (14 September – 2 October 2020)
Committee on the Rights of the Child (OPSC review)	5 December 2011	
Human Rights Council – Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review	22 February 2016	Greece will be under review for the Third Cycle in May 2021

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITMENTS

International commitments	
Commitment	Start date
WeProtect – an international movement dedicated to national and global action to end the sexual exploitation of children online	2018 ¹⁵⁶
Regional commitments	
Commitment	Start date
Council of Europe – the European leading human rights organisation	9 August 1949 ¹⁵⁷
European Union	1 January 1981 ¹⁵⁸

In terms of international cooperation and commitments, it is worth mentioning that Greece submitted its Voluntary National Report on the implementation of the SDGs in July 2018.¹⁵⁹ The report presents the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Greece and the setting of national priorities. Whilst the report explains how different stakeholders collaborated to combat human trafficking and makes mention of CSAM and child exploitation, it does not present a new strategy to combat SEC in all its manifestations.¹⁶⁰

Greece is involved in several European and International SEC-related initiatives, especially with regards to online child sexual exploitation. Greece has committed to the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation and will enhance its efforts to identify and safeguard victims of online sexual exploitation, and to apprehend offenders.¹⁶¹ Supported by the EU, the government has established the Greek Safer Internet Centre, which implements a comprehensive programme comprising a hotline to report illegal content, a helpline to access support services and a resource portal with training and awareness materials.¹⁶²

The centre is a member of the International Association of Internet Hotlines¹⁶³ and works in conjunction with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol),¹⁶⁴ making it possible to report cases and take action on an international level if needed. Furthermore, Greece is connected to the International Child Sexual Exploitation database, a platform hosted by Interpol which enables specialist officers to use sophisticated image and video comparison software to make connections between victims, abusers and locations.¹⁶⁵

At a regional level, Greece cooperates with the European Judicial Cooperation Unit and is able to establish joint investigations for trafficking cases when countries have a mutual investigatory interest.¹⁶⁶ In June 2019, a meeting was held in Skopje, to discuss bilateral co-operation on human trafficking between North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Greece.¹⁶⁷ This meeting was supported by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and aimed to establish more streamlined procedures and direct channels of communication to exchange information regarding trafficking cases.¹⁶⁸

¹⁵⁶ European Commission. (2012, December). *Declaration on the Launch of the Global Alliance against child sexual abuse online.*

¹⁵⁷ Council of Europe (n.d.). *Greece.*

¹⁵⁸ European Union (n.d.). *Greece.*

¹⁵⁹ Hellenic Republic. (2018, July). *Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2020 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ European Commission. (n.d.). *We protect global alliance to end child sexual exploitation online.*

¹⁶² Better Internet for Kids (EU). (n.d). *Greek Safer Internet Centre.*

¹⁶³ INHOPE. (n.d). *SafeLine - Greece.*

¹⁶⁴ INTERPOL (n.d). *Greece – How INTERPOL supports Greece to tackle transnational crime.*

¹⁶⁵ Combatting online child sexual abuse: Virtual Global Taskforce. (n.d) *Interpol network identifies 10,000 child sexual abuse victims.*

¹⁶⁶ *Law 3663/2008.*

¹⁶⁷ Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. (2019, July 3). *OCSE supports bilateral co-operation on countering human trafficking between North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Greece.*

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

In terms of funding for programmes relevant to the prevention of child abuse or sexual exploitation of children, Greece operates within the European Union framework programmatic funding schemes.¹⁶⁹

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Greece has adopted a number of laws regarding domestic violence, child sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse materials and trafficking, in part due to its obligations under international law following its ratification of treaties on children's rights. However, a law dedicated solely to child abuse and neglect is conspicuously missing from Greece's legislation – the attempts to address this entirely under the provisions of the Penal Code mean that there are fundamental gaps in Greece's approach to targeting the sexual exploitation of children. Greece's system was heavily criticized in the BECAN study of 2010, in particular the lack of a coordinating and supervisory national agency and the lack of national law dedicated exclusively to child abuse and neglect.¹⁷⁰ Whilst some attempts have been made in recent years, Greece's approach still falls short on a number of issues.

To provide further context, it is worth mentioning that in 2019, the Greek Penal Code was amended and has been effective since 1st July 2019.¹⁷¹ A number of policy concerns had been outlined after the initial public consultation of the bill, some of which have now been addressed.¹⁷² In relation to SEC, following lobbying and advocacy from human rights groups and NGOs, the new Penal Code now recognizes that a sexual act without consent is criminal, with imprisonment of up to 10 years.¹⁷³ This makes Greece only one of nine European countries to recognize that a sexual act without consent is 'rape' even if there is no physical violence.¹⁷⁴ This definition will now meet the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women

and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), that was ratified by Greece in June 2018.¹⁷⁵ This success is important in relation to SEC, as it demonstrates a shifting narrative in the country on sexual violence which will help to prevent rape and tackle impunity.

Exploitation of children in prostitution

Under Greek law, exploitation of children in prostitution is illegal and criminalized by the revised Penal Code. Article 349 paragraphs 1 and 2 deal directly with the solicitation of minors. According to Article 349 (1) of the new Penal Code, the exploitation of children in prostitution includes anyone who induces, urges, procures or facilitates the prostitution or lewd acts of minors for prostitution.¹⁷⁶ Penalties are up to 10 years of imprisonment plus a financial penalty, which is determined by Article 57 of the Penal Code. Article 349 (2) contains six aggravating circumstances. In these cases, imprisonment increases to minimum of 5 up to 20 years' imprisonment plus a fine if the crime has been committed by any of the following six ways: a) against a child below; 15 b) with deceptive means; c) if the offender is an ascendant relative of the child or a foster parent, a spouse or any other person to whom the minor has been entrusted for guarding or supervision, even temporary; d) if the offender is a public servant, who, while exercising his service or benefiting from his being a public servant, commits or participates in any way in the offence; e) using electronic means of communication; or f) by offering or promising to pay money or any other consideration.¹⁷⁷

Moreover, Article 351 A forbids sexual acts between an adult and a child in exchange of a fee or other material consideration by the offender or another person, or if two children are "forced" to engage in sexual acts by an adult in the same way while he/she or any other adult is present.¹⁷⁸ If the child is over 14, the penalty applied is 3

to 5 years imprisonment plus a fine.¹⁷⁹ When the child is between 12 and 14 years of age the prescribed penalty is imprisonment from 5 to 20 years plus a fine.¹⁸⁰ An aggravating circumstance exists when the child is below 12 years old, the prescribed penalty is extended to 10 to 20 years imprisonment plus fine.¹⁸¹ If the acts results in the death of the victim, a more stringent penalty is applied, 10 to 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment plus fine. No cases of children being held criminally liable for being exploited in prostitution have been identified in the research for this report.

Lastly, Article 339 (2) sets 15 as the age of consent but provides for a close-in-age exemption that allows children below 15 years old to have sexual acts with peers as long as the gap between them is not greater than three years.¹⁸² In such a case, no penalty can be imposed, but only reformatory or therapeutic measures for minors (as described in Articles 122 and 123 of Penal Code respectively).¹⁸³

Online child sexual exploitation (OCSE)

Greece has almost entirely domesticated into law the entire Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.¹⁸⁴

Article 348 A (1) of the Penal Code prohibits 'child pornography' as provided by Article 3 (1) (c) of the OPSC.¹⁸⁵ Distributing, disseminating, or advertising CSAM along with disseminating information to solicit children into CSAM are punishable by imprisonment of up to 2 years (5 years at the maximum) and a fine, the amount of which is established on a case by case bases according to Articles 57 and 80.¹⁸⁶ Furthermore, both the intent to acquire or possess CSAM offline as well as through information and communication technology, is punishable.¹⁸⁷ Unfortunately, the

mere possession of CSAM is not criminalised under the new Penal Code, neither is the use of children in audio CSAM. Article 348 A (3) also applies to cases where materials depicting children are "in electronic or any other form of material, of the body of or part of the body of a minor, aimed at causing sexual stimulation, as well as a recording or depiction of an actual or virtual carnal act that arises sexual stimulation."

Positively, it is worth mentioning that the Greek legislation, following the Lanzarote Convention, also bans live streaming of child sexual abuse through a number of different provisions. This practice which is both an established reality¹⁸⁸ and increasingly on the rise combines the exploitation of children in prostitution and the production of CSAM. According to Article 348 C of the Penal Code, pornographic representations of children are illegal.¹⁸⁹ Pornographic representation of children is defined as the direct exhibition or the intent to view, including through information and communication technologies, both (1) children engaged in a real or sexual virtual act as well as (2) the genitals or any part of the body of a child in a way that obviously causes sexual stimulation. Any person who exploits a child in order to make him or her participate in or to perform pornographic performance risks imprisonment up to 10 years if the child is below 14, and at least two years' (up to five years) imprisonment if the child is above 14. Article 348 C (1) also punishes with imprisonment of at least two years (maximum of five years) anyone who knowingly pays or monitors a pornographic performance involving children below 14, while if the minor is between 14 and 18 years old, the minimum penalty is one year imprisonment and the maximum is five years.¹⁹⁰

In regards to online grooming of children for sexual purposes, Greece has taken a more progressive approach as criminalization is covered even with no meeting under Article 348 B.¹⁹¹ Indeed, Article

169 Council of Europe. (2017, October 25). *Replied to the thematic questionnaire: Greece – The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)*.

170 Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect – BECAN. (2010, February). *Current Situation Concerning Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) in Greece*. 8 and 22.

171 *Penal Code*. [Translated from Greek].

172 Amnesty International. (2019). *Amnesty International Submission on the Legal Definition of Rape in Greece*.

173 *Penal Code*, Article 336. [Translated from Greek].

174 Amnesty International. (2019, June 6). *Greece: Newly amended rape law is a historic victory for women*.

175 Council of Europe (2007) *Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation. and Sexual Abuse*. (Article 36).

176 *Penal Code*. Article 349. [Translated from Greek].

177 *Ibid*. Article 349 (2). [Translated from Greek].

178 *Ibid*. Article 351 A. [Translated from Greek].

179 *Ibid*. Article 351 A(1)(c). [Translated from Greek].

180 *Ibid*. Article 351 A (1)(b) [Translated from Greek]

181 *Ibid*. Article 351 A. [Translated from Greek].

182 *Penal Code*. Article 339 (2). [Translated from Greek].

183 *Ibid*. Article 122 and 123. [Translated from Greek].

184 Council of Europe. (2019). *European Social Charter – Comments by the on the 2nd National Report on the implementation of the European Social Charter submitted by the Government of Greece*, 27.

185 *Penal Code*. Article 348A (1). [Translated from Greek].

186 *Ibid*, Article 348A (2). [Translated from Greek].

187 *Ibid*.

188 European Cyber Crime. (2015). *Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) and European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), Virtual Global Taskforce Child Sexual Exploitation Environmental Assessment Scan 2015*.

189 *Penal Code*. Article 348C. [Translated from Greek].

190 *Ibid*. Article 348 C. [Translated from Greek].

191 *Ibid*. Article 348 B. [Translated from Greek].

348 B states that: “Any person who intentionally, through the technology of information and communication, suggests an encounter between an adult and a minor under the age of 15, aiming at the commitment of the crimes described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Art. 339 or 348 A, is sentenced to an imprisonment of at least two to five years and a fine when the proposal is followed by further actions which lead in the commitment of such crime.” The fine, as previously mentioned is established on a case by case basis according to Articles 57 and 80.¹⁹²

Importantly, online grooming is criminalized not only when the adult suggests to the minor to meet but also when he/she proposes to meet in conjunction with a third person. Moreover, the article covers online grooming not only for the purposes of engagement in sexual activity with the child and accessing CSAM, but also for committing other offences that abuse the sexual freedom of the minor. Article 348 B of the Penal Code establishes a minimum of two years up to a maximum of five years imprisonment for anyone who proposes, through information systems, to a child below 15 to meet with or with another person with a view to commit a sexual act.¹⁹³

Moreover, Article 337 (3) states that ‘Any adult, who through Internet or other means of communication, builds contact with a person under the age of fifteen and offences the genital respectability of the latter using lecherous gestures or proposals, is sentenced to an imprisonment of at least two years with a maximum of five years. In case of this activity rehearsed repeatedly or an encounter has taken place, this shall entail a sentence of at least three years’ imprisonment for the adult.’ Article 337 (3) criminalises the solicitation of children under 15 years of age through ‘the Internet, or other information and communication technologies’.¹⁹⁴ The intention to meet the child is not required for it to constitute a crime and all acts conducted in order to build a relationship of trust/ “contact” with the intention of committing a sexual offence are criminalised.¹⁹⁵ The latter sentence of this section applies an aggravating circumstance if the

perpetrator habitually continues to meet with the child following this initial interaction through ICT facilitated contact.¹⁹⁶

Because the Lanzarote Convention sets the age of consent as that provided for in national legislation for the applicability of grooming provisions, Greek law is compliant in protecting all children below the age of 15. However, Greece should consider a wider application in order to protect all minors from exploitation.

In 2016, the Hellenic Police reportedly arrested 28 individuals for CSAM-related conducts – statistics on the number of convictions are unavailable.¹⁹⁷ In 2017, 164 cases related to CSAM and violence of sexual integrity proceedings began. 14 child sexual offenders were arrested in Greece and one case referred to possession and distribution of CSAM for professional reasons.¹⁹⁸ It is unclear what is meant by professional reasons.

Gaps persist in Greece’s legal framework to comprehensively address OCSE. In regards to sexual extortion, Greek legislation fails in providing a comprehensive definition. Article 348 C paragraph 2 addresses the coercion part but it is not specific for ICT.¹⁹⁹

In relation to ISP regulations, the Public Prosecutor is able to order the ‘taking down’ of a website hosted in Greece, if CSAM content is found. In cases where the website is neither hosted in Greece, nor belonging to a domain name assigned in Greece, the Prosecutor may order the block of access to such websites. This order must be individually justified, and is addressed to the owner of the website and the National Telecommunications and Post Commission. They then must notify all access providers registered in Greece as per Greek Telecommunications Law.²⁰⁰ After seeking compliance, the National Telecommunications and Post Commission may demand the provider takes awareness measures for the users.²⁰¹

Sale and trafficking of children for sexual purposes

The Greek legal framework relating to the sale and trafficking of children for sexual purposes is comprehensive and in compliance with relevant international instruments. Greece ratified both the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the domestication of the Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.

The offence of trafficking in human beings was first introduced in Law 3064/2002.²⁰² Additional Articles include – Article 323 A of the Penal Code which is in line with the Palermo Protocol and criminalizes all forms of exploitation.²⁰³ Importantly, the Article does not require evidence of coercion – the means – when the trafficking involves a child. Interestingly, Article 323 A paragraph 8 does not criminalize victims for violations of migration legislation.²⁰⁴

Trafficking offences are often committed either through or under the cover of legal entities. These may be either companies or fake charitable organizations.²⁰⁵ Article 10, paragraph 1 of the Organized Crime Convention requires states to adopt measures that establish “the liability of legal persons for participation in serious crimes involving an organized criminal group”.²⁰⁶ Greece establishes liability of legal persons for trafficking under Article 4 of the Law 3625/2007.²⁰⁷ Complex criminal structures can often hide the true ownership, clients or particular transactions related to trafficking.²⁰⁸ Therefore, by ensuring the liability of legal persons for trafficking Greece offers additional protection for children.

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT)

Legislation on SECTT is covered in the Greek Penal Code, under Article 348 (2) which: “punishes any person who organizes, finances, directs, supervises, advertises, or mediates in making trips for the purpose of committing sexual acts with a child”. This article further specifies that participating in such travel is illegal. This provision, prescribes a penalty of at least one year for anyone “regardless of his responsibility for committing other offences”. In addressing liability no matter their responsibility, this reflects a key strength in Greece’s provisions against SECTT. Similarly to trafficking, in regards to corporate liability, Law 3625/2007 also covers SECTT violations.²⁰⁹

Extraterritorial jurisdiction and extradition law

In order for Greek jurisdiction to be established in case of an offence committed outside its territory by one of its nationals, extraterritorial provisions are needed.

Article 6 of the Penal Code provides for active personality jurisdiction over all “misdemeanours” and “felonies”, and applies even when the perpetrator was Greek when he or she committed a crime and now is a foreigner, or when the perpetrator acquired Greek citizenship after the offence took place.²¹⁰

Article 7 of the Penal Code states that Greek penal laws apply to foreigners for acts committed abroad that are characterized as a felony or misdemeanour, if the act is directed against Greek citizens and is punishable under the laws of the country where it was committed or if it was committed in a country under constitutional turmoil.²¹¹

Article 8 of the Penal Code states that Greek penal laws apply to nationals and foreigners regardless of the laws of the place of commission, for the trafficking in human beings and any other crime.

192 *Ibid.* Article 348 A (2). [Translated from Greek].

193 *Ibid.* Article 348 B. [Translated from Greek].

194 *Ibid.* Article 337 (3). [Translated from Greek].

195 *Ibid.*

196 Missing Children. (2015). *A survey on transposition of Directive against child sexual exploitation and abuse*. 119.

197 U.S State Department. (2017). *Greece 2017 Human Rights Report*. 22.

198 Council of Europe. (2019). *European Social Charter – Comments by the on the 2nd National Report on the implementation of the European Social Charter submitted by the Government of Greece*. 27.

199 *Penal Code*, Article 348 C. [Translated from Greek].

200 *Law 4070/2012*. [Translated from Greek]

201 *Ibid.*

202 *Law 3064/2002*. [Translated from Greek].

203 *Penal Code*, Article 323A (5). [Translated from Greek].

204 *Ibid.* Article 323 A (8). [Translated from Greek].

205 UNODC. *Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. 117.

206 *United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto*. Article 10, paragraph 1.

207 *Law 3625/2007*. Article 4. [Translated from Greek]

208 UNODC. *Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. 117.

209 *Law 3625/2007*. Article 4. [Translated from Greek]

210 *Penal Code*, Article 6. [Translated from Greek].

211 *Ibid.* Article 7.

for which special provisions or international conventions signed and validated by the Greek state provide for their implementation Greek criminal laws.²¹² This means that in relation to SEC only the crime of trafficking has universal application under Greek law.

Moreover, extraterritorial jurisdiction applies to offences related to SECTT, OCSE and sexual acts in exchange of a fee. Indeed, Article 348 D of the Penal Code²¹³ specifies that provisions under these crimes apply to acts, which have been committed abroad by a Greek citizen. It further states that crimes are punishable “regardless of whether they are illegal according to the legislation of the country where they took place”.²¹⁴

Double criminality is required for the exercise of active personality and passive personality jurisdiction under Articles 6 and 7 of the Penal Code, but is not required for universal jurisdiction under Article 8 of the same Code.²¹⁵ This means that the offence must be prohibited both in the perpetrator’s country of origin and in the country where the offence was committed. This could hinder the prosecution of SEC cases.

Greece has ratified a lot of bilateral conventions on extradition and judicial assistance²¹⁶ and the European Convention on Extradition of the Council of Europe²¹⁷, as well as the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Penal Matters of the Council of Europe.²¹⁸ Greece also implemented the European Arrest Warrant in its law 3251/2004.²¹⁹

In regards to extradition, the Code of Penal Procedure (Art 437) maintains the double criminality principle if there is no bilateral

agreement or convention in place.²²⁰ However, it is worth noting that Article 438 of the Code of Penal Procedure states that extradition is prohibited if the person for which extradition is requested was Greek when the acts was committed.²²¹

An important exception to the dual criminality principle is provided for with regard to European Union Member States in Law 3251/2004. This refers to the execution of the European Arrest Warrant, which is allowed, without verification of dual criminality, for a catalogue of 32 offences (Art 10) – including sexual exploitation of children - if they are punishable in the issuing Member State by a custodial sentence or a detention order for a maximum period of at least three years.²²²

Child, early and forced marriages (CEFM)

According to the Greek Civil Code, the minimum legal age of marriage in Greece is 18.²²³ However, judges can allow marriage of children below the age of 18 if there is a “significant reason”. Non-respect of these condition will lead to the invalidity of the marriage.²²⁴ However, the Civil Code does not specify what those reasons might be, and this could lead to disguised child marriages. The “significant reasons” are to be interpreted by the judge in each case separately.²²⁵ Article 93 paragraph 3 of the Greek Constitution obliges the judges to issue justified judicial decisions in each case.²²⁶ Article 3 of the CRC on the best interest of the child, is often applied in cases where situations of child marriage are found.²²⁷ A marriage would be invalid according to Article 1372 of the Civil Code if the license of the court for the marriage of the minor had not been asked or given and yet the marriage was realised.²²⁸

In order to understand child marriage legislation within Greece, it is first important to understand and clarify the history of its dual legal system. Following the Treaty of Lausanne of 24th July 1923²²⁹ between Turkey and Greece, Greece codified the Treaty into two domestic Greek Laws²³⁰ which permitted Greek Muslims in Western Thrace to choose *Shariah* Law as a parallel legal system for specific areas of private law. As a result, Greece was the only country in Europe which applied *Shariah* Law to a section of its citizens.

Mufti’s, appointed by the Greek State had jurisdiction over some areas of private law, marriage being one.²³¹ Whilst, *Shariah* law was supposed to be applied only to the Muslim community Thrace, reports of *Muftis* extending their jurisdiction over marriages outside of the community exist.²³²

In relation to marriage, according to Hanafi law,²³³ a person must reach puberty before they marry. In marital circumstances where girls are under 15, they can marry if their parents have granted consent.²³⁴ Due to the Greek Civil Code allowing for exceptions in some cases of marriage,²³⁵ *Hanafi*’ marriage is still legal under Greek and civil law. Lack of required attorneys at these religious marriages in Greece and the illiteracy of girls, but also boys, allows for a situation of coercion; the lack of representation means that those who are being married do not know their legal rights in either the religious or civil sphere.²³⁶ This can lead to situations of child, early and forced marriage.

Despite, *de jure* stipulations under Law No 1920/1991,²³⁷ that decisions made by *muftis* on marriage can only be made legal by a Greek Court of First instance, in practice this acts as “a mere façade of review”.²³⁸ According to a report from the Council of Europe, courts ratify 99% of the decisions on marriage they receive.

However, in January 2018, the government of Greece, passed Law 4511 which made the application of *Shariah* law in civil and inheritance matters optional rather than obligatory.²³⁹ The impact this has had on preventing child, early and forced marriage is still unclear. Many of the issues still remain in terms of illiteracy and lack of oversight on these cases.²⁴⁰ Furthermore, implementation and lack of clarity surrounding national jurisprudence and case law in respect to the application of *Shariah* law still remains, as demonstrated by the case of Mola Sali Vs Greece.²⁴¹

Additional legislation concerning child marriage includes Greece’s ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in April 2018. Steps have been taken to address the issue of forced marriage; under Article 2323 A (5) (g) on human trafficking.²⁴² In case of forced marriage, the offender shall be punished by an imprisonment of at least 10 years if the victim is a child.²⁴³

212 *Ibid.* Article 8.

213 *Penal Code*, Article 348D. [Translated from Greek].

214 *Ibid.*

215 *Penal Code*, Article 6, 7 and 8. [Translated from Greek].

216 Hellenic Republic. (n.d.). *International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters*.

217 Council of Europe. (1957). *European Convention on Extradition*.

218 Council of Europe. 1959. *European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Penal Matters of the Council of Europe*.

219 *Law 3252/2004*. [Translated from Greek]

220 *Code of Penal Procedure*, Articles 436 and 437. [Translated from Greek].

221 *Ibid.*, Article 438. [Translated from Greek].

222 European Commission. (2007). *Second evaluation report on the state of transposition of the Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States*.

223 *Civil Code*, Article 1350. [Translated from Greek].

224 *Ibid.*, Article 1372. [Translated from Greek].

225 *Civil Code*, Article 93 (3) [Translated from Greek]

226 *The Constitution of Greece*, Article 93 (3).

227 ARSIS. (2019, July). Personal Communication. UN General Assembly (1989). *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. A/RES/44/25 of 20 November 1989. Article 2.

228 *Civil Code*. Article 1372 [Translated from Greek]

229 (1923, January 30) *Lausanne Peace Treaty VI. Convention Concerning the Exchange of Greek and Turkish Populations Signed at Lausanne*.

230 Act 147/1914 and Act 1920/1991.

231 This included - divorce, alimony, custody, pensions and the emancipation of minors. Their jurisdiction stopped short over issues related to adoption, children born out of wedlock, the division of property upon divorce or communication with children

232 *Muftis* have declared themselves “legitimate judges’ of Greek citizens of the Muslim faith wherever they live, not only in Western Thrace but also in Santorini (Komotini Religious Court, Ruling No. 24/2003) and Euboea (Komotini Religious Court, Ruling No. 22/2003). See Alexis Varende, “La charia appliquée en Grèce”, 19 August 2014.

233 The Hanafi (Arabic: *مذاهب* Hanafi) school is one of the four religious Sunni Islamic schools of jurisprudence (fiqh).

234 Sheikh, M. (2018, April). *Islamic Law on Child Marriages*. Vol 1. 168.

235 *Civil Code*, Article 1350. [Translated from Greek]

236 Council of Europe. (2019, January 3). *Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories to the “Cairo Declaration”?*. 11.

237 *Law No. 1920/1991*. [Translated from Greek]

238 Council of Europe. (2019, January 3). *Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories to the “Cairo Declaration”?*. 11.

239 *Ibid.* 11.

240 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.

241 Tsavougoglou, I. (2019, January 11). *The Curious Case of Molla Sali v. Greece: Legal Pluralism Through the Lens of the ECtHR*.

242 *Penal Code*, Article 323A (5) g). [Translated from Greek].

243 *Ibid.* Article 323A (5). [Translated from Greek].

National Response to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

At present, Greece does not have a national plan of action or coordinating body specifically addressing the sexual exploitation of children highlighting a key failure in Greece's response. In 2016, a National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child was reportedly being drafted under the coordination of the General Secretariat of Transparency and Human Rights although this plan has yet to be implemented despite continued pressure from the Children's Ombudsman.²⁴⁴ Certain programmes within Greece's National Action Plan on Gender Equality (2016-2020) may have an impact on reducing children's vulnerability to SEC.²⁴⁵ However, it is important to note these programmes target specifically women and girls, leaving attention to boy victims of SEC limited in scope.

Greece has established the following institutions designed to tackle issues and questions related to children. Firstly, The National Observatory on the Rights of the Child²⁴⁶ was created to ensure effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, despite being established in 2001, the National Observatory for the Rights of Children as a body has reportedly been largely inactive.²⁴⁷ Secondly, the Department of Children's Rights was established in 2003 by the

office of the Greek Ombudsman, with a mandate to investigate actions, omissions or any complaints about individuals and legal entities that violate the rights of children or endanger their welling.²⁴⁸ Thirdly, there is the Institute of Child Health²⁴⁹ and finally the National Human Rights Committee.²⁵⁰ Whilst the first three bodies focus specifically on children's rights, the jurisdiction of the fourth is broader and includes anyone whose human rights are infringed upon. The Department of Children's Rights and the Institute of Child Health are without doubt, the most proactive of these bodies in working towards furthering child rights.

It is worth mentioning that one of the responsibilities of the National Observatory on the Rights of the Child, was to establish a documentation centre for the collection and analysis of statistical, legislative, bibliographical and other related data at national and international level. However, due to the inactivity of the Observatory this system has not been created, meaning that there is a distinct lack of national, systematically collected data in Greece on the issue of sexual exploitation of children.²⁵¹ This body's ineffectiveness reflects a wider systemic issue present in Greece in relation to the failure to provide adequate protection to child victims of abuse and exploitation. A group of investigative journalists released an article in 2019 exposing the

failure of the Greek system of child care, its lack of coordination and disparate services.²⁵²

A key issue highlighted was the failure of successive governments in accepting the Institute of Child Health Protocol for Child Abuse and Neglect. This protocol aims to unify procedures by outlining recommendations for networking the disparate services and proposes the development of a digital records system for incidents of abuse.²⁵³ As it stands, the Institute of Child Health has also developed a comprehensive protocol, for an Integrated Investigation Approach, Diagnosis and Management Incidents of Child Abuse & Neglect²⁵⁴ and a Trafficking protocol for victims.²⁵⁵ Reportedly, training on these protocols have been provided to some of the municipality's social services.²⁵⁶ However, it remains unclear on how widely implemented these protocols have been. As of 2019, no governmental body has taken ownership of the coordination and implementation of these protocols.²⁵⁷

Much of Greece's efforts to address SEC has been implemented in the context of anti-trafficking. The Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings,²⁵⁸ situated within the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been particularly active in this respect.²⁵⁹ The Office is designated as the national coordinating body in the fight against trafficking in human beings and is tasked with "the co-ordination of the activities of competent authorities and civil society actors as regards prevention of trafficking in human beings, protection of victims of trafficking and prosecution of the perpetrators, as well as representing Greece at international fora".²⁶⁰ Whilst the work of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Human

Trafficking is commendable, it has faced criticism that results from its lack of sufficient resources.²⁶¹ A permanent consultation has been created as a framework for exchange between the Office of the National Rapporteur and representatives of 11 NGOs specialized in the field of combatting human trafficking. In recent years, Greece has been without a National Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings, however a new plan developed in participation with public agencies, NGOs, civil society and grassroots organizations has now been drafted.²⁶² The plan's timeline encompasses the years 2019-2023.²⁶³ As of November 2019, this plan has yet to be implemented.²⁶⁴

Nationally, the mandate of the Hellenic Police, under the auspices of the Ministry of Citizen Protection, includes enforcing laws on the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and other forms of SEC. This focus has been retained through the anti-crime policy programme 2015-2019, of the Hellenic Police Headquarters which constitutes the reference point of initiatives taken by each and every Hellenic Police Unit.²⁶⁵ In addition, a specialised cyber-crime division exists within the Hellenic Police department.²⁶⁶ The Cyber Crime Division exists to prevent, investigate and repress crime through the Internet or other electronic media. Within this division, the Unit of Minors Internet Protection and Digital Investigation is responsible for the detection and prosecution of criminal offences committed against minors through the Internet.²⁶⁷ The Cyber Crime Division works nationally with NGOs such as Safeline and Smile of the Child and it cooperates with Internet Service Providers as well as other enterprises active in Internet provision throughout

244 UN Human Rights Council. *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 : [Universal Periodic Review]* . 3; ARSIS (2019, June), Personal communication.

245 Ministry of Interior General Secretariat for Gender Equality. (2016). *The National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020*.

246 *Law 2909/2001*. [Translated from Greek]

247 Lang, M and Hartil M. (2015, July 11). *Safeguarding, Child Protection and Abuse in Sport International*. 60.

248 *Law No. 3094/2003*. [Translated from Greek]

249 Institute of Child Health. (n/d). *General Information: What is the Institute of Child Health (IHP)*

250 *Hellenic Republic National Commission for Human Rights* (n.d).

251 Human Rights Council. (2016) *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21* Greece*. 7.

252 The Manifold. (2019, January) *Failed Child Services in Greece*. Investigative Journalism for Europe.

253 The Manifold, (2018, December 30) *Greece child protection services, 'disjointed and inadequate'*. Aljazeera.

254 Institute of Child Health. *Ολοκληρωμένη Προσέγγιση για τη Διερεύνηση, Διάγνωση και Διαχείριση Περιστατικών Κακοποίησης & Παραμέλησης Παιδιών* [Translated from Greek].

255 *Ibid*.

256 ARSIS. (2019, July). Personal Communication.

257 *Ibid*.

258 *Law 4198/2013*, Article 6. [Translated from Greek]

259 *Hellenic Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs*.

260 Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. (2017). *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. 13. Council of Europe. 13.

261 U.S Department of State (2019, July) *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 213.

262 Moscov, H. (2019, April 24). *The National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings*. Helpis

263 *Ibid*.

264 ARSIS. (2019, October). Personal Communication.

265 Council of Europe. (2019, June 14) *European Social Charter. Comments by the Government of Greece on the 2nd National Report on the implementation of the European Social Charter*. 22.

266 The Presidential Decree 178/2014 includes the establishment and structure of the Cyber Crime Division, based in Athens and the foundation and structure of Cyber Crime Subdivision of Northern Greece in Thessaloniki.

267 WeProtect Global Alliance. (2018). *Working Examples of Model National Response Capabilities and Implementation*. 11; Hellenic Police (n.d) *Cyber Crime Division*.

the country.²⁶⁸ The Cyber Crime Division also cooperates internationally with Europol and Interpol. Furthermore, they also receive complaints related to Greek jurisdiction from organizations such as the NCMEC (National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children) in the USA, and the NCEEC (National Centre for Missing and Exploitation Coordination Center) in Canada, that are responsible for the collection and distribution of complaints on the sexual abuse of children from technology companies and social media platforms, amongst others.²⁶⁹

Engagement with the private sector on the issue of SEC is limited.²⁷⁰ In 2014, no accounts of private sector engagement had been recorded in the elaboration or implementation of policies, programmes or other initiatives to prevent SEC and sexual abuse of children.²⁷¹ Since then no notable action was identified in the writing of this overview. Indirect support has been given through foundations aligned to companies, such as funding by Ryanair and Athens Airport Support through The Smile of the Child Christmas Initiative.²⁷²

Whilst Greece has taken some positive steps, much more could be done in respect to strengthening prevention through social and economic empowerment measures in favour of vulnerable groups, in particular asylum seekers, migrants and unaccompanied children, which will address factors leading to SEC. A lack of a national plan of action or coordinating body specifically addressing the sexual exploitation of children has severely hindered Greece's strategic response to SEC.

PREVENTION MEASURES, AWARENESS-RAISING AND EDUCATION

Most Greek SEC prevention measures and activities are developed and carried out by the Office of the National Rapporteur, usually in partnership with civil society actors. In regards to human rights education, the Office collaborates with state partners and local authorities, such as the Ministry of Education and the Open Schools project of the Municipality of Athens, to promote topics including education on fundamental rights and sexual and reproductive health.²⁷³ One of the most successful awareness raising campaigns operating in Greece, has been the two-day festival: Break the Chain.²⁷⁴ First run in 2015 to mark the European Anti-Trafficking Day it has now become an annual event. The festival, organized by the Office of the National Rapporteur with the assistance of other agencies, civil society organisations, international organisations and business and artists, demonstrates a clear display of multi-sectorial collaboration and partnership.²⁷⁵ Following the first festival in 2015, the Hellenic Police reported an increase in the number of calls received from members of the public,²⁷⁶ highlighting the importance of targeted awareness campaigns in the prevention of SEC.

In regards to OCSE, a number of initiatives are in place to improve online safety and raise awareness on the risks children may encounter online such as the Safer Internet Day, an Online Gaming Guide for Parents, Google Family Link, online educational games and videos for children and lesson plans for teachers. Though it is important to note that often these focus primarily on the risks of cyberbullying as opposed to addressing SEC specifically.²⁷⁷ The Cyber Crime Division of the Hellenic Police, has also developed a number of awareness-raising and educational activities focusing on the responsible

use of new technologies and online risks. Examples include the Safe Surfing Day Seminars²⁷⁸ and the Cyberkid Website and App²⁷⁹ which aim to inform pupils, parents and teachers on violence on the Internet, the risks of social network sites, and how to prevent and address these risks.

An Anti-Crime Policy Programme has been implemented on Greek legislation by the Public Security Directorate and the Directorate of Prosecution of Cyber-crimes of the Ministry of Interior.²⁸⁰ The Directorates train police officers on the fight against trafficking in persons and domestic violence and investigate cases of exploitation of children, sexual offences and CSAM committed via the Internet or by the use of ICTs.²⁸¹ Specific training on child abuse and registration of child abuse related complaints at the National level has been carried out by local NGO Eliza.²⁸² In 2016, the charity launched an awareness raising campaign for self-protection strategies and the training of professional staff involved in the prevention of child abuse.²⁸³ Since its launch, 73 judges and prosecutors, 1,000 police officials, 220 nurses and 1,220 physicians have been trained.²⁸⁴ The project aims by 2020 to provide training to 1,500 police officers.²⁸⁵ In addition, over the course of seven years ARSIS (the ECPAT member in Greece) has carried out trainings to over 200 professionals including to judges, public prosecutors, police, schools and social services.²⁸⁶

The work done to address SEC by local NGOs in Greece is particularly commendable.²⁸⁷ Notable groups include ARSIS, Greek Council for Refugees, Hopespot, KMOP (Family and Childcare Centre), METRADASI, PRAKSIS, Solidarity Now and the

Smile of the Child. Civil society stakeholders have organised a number of events at schools and universities to raise awareness on the sexual exploitation of children. According to the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), as of 2016, more than 6,000 pupils and students have been informed about human trafficking through these initiatives. NGOs such as "The A21" who engage in outreach programmes with persons engaged in prostitution, sometimes assist police anti-trafficking units in carrying out regular checks and raids on bars and nightclubs.²⁸⁸ This helps navigate the complex trust issues that arise given the police dual mandate of investigation and enforcement. However, in 2017 the GRETA noted that the focus of outreach work and prevention measures focuses on women and girls, with little or no attention being paid to detecting victims of trafficking amongst men and boys who may be exploited through prostitution.²⁸⁹ A 2017 article also highlights the lack of supportive structures in place for boy victims of child sexual abuse.²⁹⁰ As of 2019 this sentiment can still be applied, with much of the work conducted by NGOs and EKKA focused on women and girls.²⁹¹

In 2019, Smile of the Child participated in and hosted a number of International Conferences related to SEC including: the 'Global Safety and Well-Being Summit' which marked the end of a three year partnership with Facebook aimed at improving online safety of children,²⁹² and a conference entitled 'Child Sexual Abuse: Next Steps in the Holistic Support of Children'.²⁹³ The latter conference, attended by 700 participants, brought together national stakeholders from law enforcement, government, civil society

268 Council of Europe. (2018, January 17). *Greece the Smile of the Child 2nd thematic monitoring round "The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)".*

269 *Ibid.*

270 ARSIS. (June, 2019). Personal Communication.

271 Council of Europe. *Replies to the thematic questionnaire Greece*. 3 and 9.

272 GTP headlines. (2016, December). *Ryanair and Athens Airport support 'The Smile of the Child' Through Christmas Initiative*.

273 Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. (2017). *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. 31. Council of Europe.

274 *Break the Chain Campaign*.

275 Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. (2017). *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. 30. Council of Europe.

276 *Ibid.*

277 ARSIS, (2019, June). Personal Communication.

278 Council of Europe. (2019, May). *Comments by the on the 2nd National Report on the implementation of the European Social Charter*. 28.

279 *Ibid.*

280 *Ibid.*

281 *Ibid.*

282 Eliza. (n.d) *Training of Professionals at a National Level*.

283 Eliza. (n.d). *Nationwide Awareness Campaign for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children*.

284 Eliza. (n.d) *Training of Professionals at a National Level*.

285 *Ibid.*

286 ARSIS. (2019, July). Personal Communication.

287 Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. (2016, September 12). *Reply to the Questionnaire from Greece*. 4.

288 Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. (2017). *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. 37. Council of Europe; ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.

289 *Ibid.* 37

290 Freccero J, Biswas D, Whiting A, Alrabe K, Seelinger KT (2017) *Sexual exploitation of unaccompanied migrant and refugee boys in Greece: Approaches to prevention*. PLoS Med 14(11).;

291 ARSIS. (2019, July). Personal Communication.

292 The Smile of the Child. (2019, May 27). *"The Smile of the Child", Trusted NGO partner of Facebook, contributed to the Global Safety and Well-Being Summit 2019 along with leading organizations from around the world*.

293 Watch videos from the conference here: *International Conference 'Sexual Abuse of Children'*

and members of the international community. Stemming from this conference is a contribution to the Declaration of Athens which will promote and formalize the ‘urgent need for concrete measures on a global scale for the holistic support and protection of children from sexual abuse and violence’.²⁹⁴

Furthermore, Smile of the Child was involved in a 32-month project (September 2016- April 2019), which involved six partners from EU countries, entitled: ‘CONVEY- Counteracting sexual Violence and harassment: Engaging Youth in schools in digital education on gender stereotyping’.²⁹⁵ One aim of the project was to develop peer-to-peer approaches to education and awareness-raising on sexual violence and harassment against women and girls. Recommendations for Greece, specifically the Ministry of Education, Science and Religion included: implementing a National Strategy against Sexual Abuse or Assault from kindergarten to secondary education and roll out programmes similar to CONVEY in all levels of the educational system in Greece.²⁹⁶ Attitudes and behaviours of 14-18 year old students were measured as part of the project and there appeared to be a culture of victim-blaming amongst many of the respondents (70%) in Greece. The recommendations indicate that incorporating the topic of sexual violence prevention and discussions about consent into the official curriculum might mitigate these attitudes.²⁹⁷

Another notable project which will have an impact on SEC is the “Building Relationships through Innovative Development of Gender Based Violence Awareness in Europe – BRIDGE”.²⁹⁸ The two-year EU funded regional project, coordinated by Terre des Hommes, aims to develop knowledge and capabilities of care professionals on gender-based

violence and support multi agency collaboration. ARSIS carries out its implementation in Greece.

Child protection, access to justice and right to remedies for child victims of sexual exploitation

National complaint mechanisms

Greece’s national complaint mechanisms and referral pathways in relation to SEC have been described as disjointed, disparate and slow.²⁹⁹ There is not one sole coordinating body nor a systematic procedure to report crimes of SEC.

In terms of legal obligations, any citizen,³⁰⁰ public official and personnel of public services³⁰¹ who are aware of any situation or information that may amount to a crime being committed must report it to the authorities or relevant body (District Attorney or Police). This covers SEC-related crimes. However, there is no legal sanction in place if the person is found to have failed in their duty to report.³⁰² Any front line professional who is bound by confidentiality rules is legally able to waive these if they encounter reasonable grounds that a child is a victim of sexual exploitation.³⁰³ In addition, Public Prosecutors have the duty to initiate investigations *ex officio* on the basis of information obtained by any source if the victim is a child and a victim of sexual exploitation. All crimes related to sexual abuse or sexual exploitation against children are prosecuted even if the victim does not report the incident or withdraws his/her statement.³⁰⁴

In Greece, all victims including children can initiate civil, judicial review or criminal proceedings in domestic courts to challenge violations of their rights. If the age of the child victim is below 12 years of age, the right to submit a complaint falls

to the parent or legal guardian.³⁰⁵ Any person, including children, can also present a complaint for violations of children’s rights to the Children’s Rights Ombudsman.³⁰⁶ Minors have recourse to the Ombudsman through the free of charge helpline for children, email and through the website.³⁰⁷ They can also visit the Authority’s office to discuss their case in the space specifically designed for children, or send their complaint by post or fax.³⁰⁸ Limitations exist, as the service is not anonymous, which may prevent some victims coming forward.³⁰⁹ The only available reports concerning violations of children’s rights from the Ombudsman date back to 2011. Up to that date, they received 3,448 calls. Publicly accessible data does not detail if these cases relate to the sexual exploitation of children.³¹⁰

Unfortunately, as Greece has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, children are unable to bring complaints for the violations of their rights to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. However, Greek children can also send individual complaints to the European Court of Human Rights, claiming to be the victim of a violation of the rights set forth in the European Convention on Human Rights.³¹¹ In this case, complaints are admissible only if all domestic remedies have been exhausted.³¹² As of 2019, no SEC related complaints have been submitted.

Complaints can also be made via hotlines and helplines operating in collaboration with law enforcement authorities in the country. Smile of the Child runs the National Helpline for Children SOS 1056 (as designated by Ministry of Health).³¹³ In 2018, Smile of the Child received only four

reports on cases of child sexual exploitation.³¹⁴ With respects to OCSE, children or anyone who becomes aware of such crimes may contact the Cyber Crime Unit on the special 24/7 hotline 11012 or via the following email address: 11012@hellenicpolice.gr.³¹⁵ Reportedly, there is a psychologist on hand to offer assistance and support victims and their parents.³¹⁶ EKKA runs the National Child Protection Hotline 1107.³¹⁷ This hotline runs 24/7 and consists of social workers and psychologists who can respond to questions and concerns regarding children.³¹⁸

Child-sensitive justice

In 2017, Greek legislation in regards to victims’ and specifically child victims’ rights were strengthened through the enactment and publication of Law 4478/2017 (Part 4).³¹⁹ The law harmonized the European Directive 2012/29/EU (hereinafter Victims’ Directive)³²⁰ and established minimum standards on rights, support and protection of victims of crime.³²¹

The aforementioned law includes special provisions for the protection of child victims who testify in cases concerning sexual exploitation both before and during criminal proceedings. However, notable gaps have been identified.

Firstly, in regards to specialised protective measures including psychosocial support, Article 69 states that when a child victim is interviewed, a psychologist or a psychiatrist is appointed as an expert in order to prepare and evaluate the child victim and his/her perceptual ability and mental state.³²² The evaluation should be conducted in

294 Euro Child. (2019, July 3). *Increased incidence of child sex abuse sparks Greek debate*.

295 CONVEY Digital Education for Gender Equality (n.d) ‘Counteracting sexual violence and harassment: engaging youth in schools in digital education gender stereotyping’; CONVEY (2018, November 23) *CONVEY Greece Street Interviews*. YouTube.

296 CONVEY Digital education for Gender Equality (2019). *Policy Recommendations*. 11.

297 CONVEY Digital education for Gender Equality (2019). *Final Behaviour Change Study Report*. 52.

298 Terre des hommes. (2018, October 4). *Building Relationships through Innovative Development of Gender Based Violence Awareness in Europe Bridge*.

299 Daphne Programme (European Commission) (2015). *Local Situation Analysis Report, Research, Concept and Structure*. 37; Digidiki, V and Bhaba, J. (2018). *Sexual abuse and exploitation of unaccompanied migrant children in Greece: Identifying risk factors and gaps in services during the European migration crisis*. 5.

300 *Code of Criminal Procedure*. Article 40. [Translated from Greek].

301 *Code of Criminal Procedure*. Article 37. [Translated from Greek].

302 Council of Europe (2014). *Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse Replies to the general overview questionnaire: Greece*. 9.

303 *Law 3727/2008*, Articles 2 Paragraph 3. [Translated from Greek]

304 Council of Europe (2014). *Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse Replies to the general overview questionnaire: Greece*. 14.

305 *Penal Code*, Article 115; Kaltouni, S. (2013, June). *Study on children’s involvement in judicial proceedings – contextual overview for the criminal justice phase – Greece*. ICF GHK.

306 The Greek Ombudsman. (n/d). *Submission of a complaint*.

307 The Greek Ombudsman. (n/d). *Reporting form*.

308 The Greek Ombudsman. (n/d). *Submission of a complaint*.

309 ARSIS. (2019, June), Personal communication.

310 The Greek Ombudsman. *2017 Annual Report: Executive Summary*.

311 Council of Europe (2017). *European Convention on Human Rights*, Article 34.

312 *Ibid*.

313 Smile of the Child. (n.d) *National Helpline for Children*

314 The Smile of the Child. (2019, January 31) *The Smile of the Child” supported 90.601 children and their families in 2018, including refugee and migrant children stranded in Greece*.

315 Helpful advice to prevent and protect children from abuse, Hellenic Police website (in Greek).

316 WeProtect Global Alliance. (2018). *Working Examples of Model National Response Capabilities and Implementation*. 13.

317 The National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA). (n.d). *Our Service*.

318 The National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA). (n.d). *Εθνική Γραμμή Παιδικής Προστασίας 1107*. [Translated from Greek]

319 *Law 4478/2017* (Part 4). [Translated from Greek]

320 *Directive 2012/29/EU*

321 Victims of Crime Implementation Analysis of Rights in Europe. *VOCAIRE National Report: Greece*. 6.

322 *Law 4478/2017* (Part 4)

specialised protection offices, avoiding delays and requiring a limited number of interviews.³²³ Furthermore, electronic audio-visual means may be used to negate re-traumatization that might occur through the child's physical presence in court proceedings.³²⁴ The Smile of the Child, first pioneered these specialised protection methods in 2014, through their establishment of a Child Advocacy Centre.³²⁵ The centre aimed to mitigate the risks of re-traumatization and offer full psychosocial support for the child. The government, seeking to replicate this model plans to establish five similar Independent Child Victims Protection Offices called 'Houses of the Child'. However, these have yet to be created.³²⁶

In terms of practical applications of the above provisions, criticism has been directed at the Greek courts' lack of ability to deploy audio-visual means, with some Judges even disallowing their use.³²⁷ In some cases judges have demonstrated unsophisticated understanding of re-traumatization and the impact of psychological trauma on victims of trafficking.³²⁸ In addition, gaps in police knowledge of child-sensitive interviewing skills have been identified, perhaps as a result of funding for training, personnel or other resources.³²⁹ Reportedly, child victims have been forced to repeat their abuse up to 14 times to the police.³³⁰ The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings notes that in some trafficking cases, experts reported a lack of victim-centered approaches, including cases of law enforcement conducting interviews described by victims as 'interrogations'.³³¹ Indeed in some cases, police have been reported to act discriminatorily and prejudiced in their response to victims, depending on their nationality or

ethnicity.³³² However, attempts have been made recently following the implementation of the Victim Directive to improve police knowledge of victim support procedures. In 2018, three training seminars organised by the European Public Law Organisation saw over 80 police officers serving in directorates across Greece being trained on child-sensitive justice.³³³

The law also provides for non-disclosure of witness' personal information.³³⁴ Anyone who discloses information which could lead to the disclosure of the identity of child victim of sexual exploitation can risk two years of imprisonment.³³⁵ Reportedly no child victims of trafficking have received full witness protection as of 2019.³³⁶

In order to tackle some of the above issues, civil society has engaged in a number of preventative and training measures. For example, ARSIS has delivered training to 30-40 judges on how to use a victim-centered approach with child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.³³⁷ However, due to the frequency in which judges are rotated in different courts within the judicial system, those that have been trained are often not in post long enough to implement their training in practice. This rotation makes it difficult to train all judges.³³⁸ It was also reported that non-specialised judicial personnel do not have a good understanding of trafficking, particularly in rural areas and the islands.³³⁹

Children who are victims of crimes of child sexual exploitation are legally entitled to receive support and representation by the public legal aid system.³⁴⁰ Support is offered through the State and

victim support services.³⁴¹ However, in practice, free legal representation is rarely offered with aid mostly limited to legal advice.³⁴² Additionally, NGOs have reported that a limited number of cases receive legal aid due to bureaucratic procedures and an overburdened system.³⁴³ Furthermore, pro bono lawyers are appointed only a few days before the case goes in front of the court and do not have enough time to prepare.³⁴⁴ According to the 2019 European Commission report, legal aid in Greece is limited and faces many challenges. In 2017, only a small percentage of the approved budget was actually made available, making access for vulnerable groups extremely difficult.³⁴⁵

Since the National referral mechanism has been established, victims of trafficking are provided with free legal assistance in criminal proceedings and no fee is required to file a claim.³⁴⁶ However, key challenges exist for SEC victims in the refugee community. Lack of translation services³⁴⁷ and a lack of awareness of the legal system make it particularly difficult for children and unaccompanied minors to access legal services.³⁴⁸ Fortunately, some bar associations in Greece have undertaken steps towards the legal support of child refugees and migrants.³⁴⁹

Access to recovery and reintegration

Greece's approach to recovery and reintegration of victims of child sexual exploitation is fragmented.³⁵⁰ Recovery and reintegration

programmes are generally under-resourced and under-supported. There is no systematic protocol for recovery and rehabilitation.³⁵¹ Co-operation between the competent authorities and NGOs that provide services is often done through informal means.³⁵² A lack of an effective information system and framework for exchanging data and for making referral of victims to services, has been identified as a key weakness in Greece's response.³⁵³ Furthermore, the 2019 TIP report notes that the government was unable to ascertain how much funding was spent on victim protection, highlighting an oversight in coordination and response.³⁵⁴

EKKA is the main government body supporting SEC victims, overseeing two long-term shelters, an emergency shelter, and two Social Support Centres for vulnerable populations in need of assistance.³⁵⁵ EKKA also manages the formal national identification and referral system for victims and presumed victims of trafficking.³⁵⁶ NGOs lead the majority of support services, with some support from the government; ARSIS, PRAXIS, Eliza, Smile of the Child and the A21 are particularly active in this respect.³⁵⁷ Support services run by NGOs in Greece offer protection for minority children, including Roma, unaccompanied minors, trafficking victims and child victims of abuse and neglect including sexual exploitation. No specialised service is offered specifically for SEC victims. These centres offer psycho-social support, counselling, liaison with social services and educational and

323 *Ibid.*

324 *Ibid.*

325 The Smile of the Child (n.d) *The Child Advocacy Centre.*

326 *Ibid.* 7.

327 European Commission. (2013, June). *Study on children's involvement in judicial proceedings. Contextual overview for the criminal justice phase – Greece.* 4-5.

328 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.

329 *Ibid.*

330 The Manifold (2018). *Greece child protection services 'disjointed and inadequate.'*

331 Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. (2017). *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece.* 31. Council of Europe.

332 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.

333 PROTASIS. (2018, January 25). *The PROTASIS Training Program in Greece has been successfully concluded.*

334 *Penal Code*, Article 352B. [Translated from Greek].

335 *Penal Code*, Article 352B. [Translated from Greek].

336 U.S Department of State. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report.* 232.

337 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.

338 *Ibid.*

339 U.S Department of State. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report.* 232.

340 *Law 3226/2004*, Article 1 paragraph 3 and Article 7 paragraph 3.

341 These victim support services include: Bar Associations, Women's Counselling Centers of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, and other NGOs, e.g. Centre for Research on Women's Issues- DIOTIMA, "Greek Council for Refugees", Actionaid, PRAKSIS, The Smile of the Child, ARSIS.

342 Victims of Crime Implementation Analysis of Rights in Europe. *VOCAIRE National Report: Greece.* 39.

343 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.

344 *Ibid.*

345 European Commission. (2019, February 27). *Country Report Greece 2019 Including an In-Depth Review on the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances.* 58.

346 Human Rights Council. (2016). *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 – Greece.* 66.

347 Victims of Crime Implementation Analysis of Rights in Europe. *VOCAIRE National Report: Greece.* 18.

348 Greek Ombudsman for Children's Rights. (2017). *Safeguarding and protecting the right of children on the move: the challenge of social inclusion.* 20.

349 *Ibid.*

350 *Ibid.*

351 DAPHNE European Commission. (2015). *SAVE – Solution Against Violence in Europe. Local Situation Analysis, Report. Research. Concept and Structure.* 37

352 Victims of Crime Implementation Analysis of Rights in Europe. *VOCAIRE National Report: Greece.* 61; Digdikiki, V and Bhaba, J. (2018). *Sexual abuse and exploitation of unaccompanied migrant children in Greece: Identifying risk factors and gaps in services during the European migration crisis.* 5.

353 *Ibid.* 6.

354 U.S Department of State. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report.* 214

355 *Law 3106/2003* par.2, article 6, Bill. [Translated from Greek].

356 Ministerial Decision (2016). 30840.

357 CONFRONT (2015, February) *National Report: Greece.* 38- 40.

leisure activities.³⁵⁸ Notable gaps include provision of services for child victims in rural areas and for boys. Often they are unable to access either state or NGO services.³⁵⁹

In relation to child victims of trafficking and unaccompanied migrant children, Greek law provides that unaccompanied minors shall be referred to accommodation centres where these are suitably adapted for this purpose, for as long as they stay in the country, or until they are placed with a foster family or in supervised lodgings.³⁶⁰ However, in reality these laws have not been fully implemented. Greece has faced criticism from the Commissioner of Europe³⁶¹ for this failure and for the common practice of registering unaccompanied children as adults.³⁶² As of 15 November 2019, there were 5,162 unaccompanied minors registered in Greece, however EKKA reports that there are only 1,292 available spaces in long-term dedicated shelters or supported independent living accommodation.³⁶³ Among the 3,916 children registered in different types of accommodation, as of 15 November 2019, 260 were under the regime of 'protective custody'; 1,660 were hosted in Reception and Identification Centres; 160 in open temporary accommodation facilities; 254 in 'safe zones'; 478 in hotels.³⁶⁴

The government reports that child victims of trafficking in Greece receive psycho-social support, psychotherapy, medical care, vocational guidance and legal representation of assistance for voluntary repatriation until they are socially reintegrated.³⁶⁵ NGOs have reported that despite improved cooperation and increased referrals

from law enforcement, some police officers have remained reluctant to refer victims to NGO-run support services. In 2018, the International Commission of Jurists and the European Council for Refugees and Exiles filed a legal challenge for the violations of migrant children's social rights on mainland Greece and Greece's failure to meet its child care and protection obligations.³⁶⁶ The complaint highlighted reports of sexual abuse and exploitation occurring within camp facilities. In May 2019, this complaint was deemed admissible by the European Committee of Social Rights.³⁶⁷

Access to compensation

Victims can claim compensation through the penal prosecution of the accused person.³⁶⁸ The Code of Penal Procedure further ensures victims of trafficking can make a claim for compensation by their offender. The victim, in joining the criminal proceedings as a civil party, can seek compensation for financial damages.³⁶⁹ Up to 2019, no victims of trafficking have received compensation from their offender.³⁷⁰ Victims of sexual abuse and exploitation can seek redress from the perpetrator according to Article 932 of the Civil Code for moral damages.³⁷¹ In cases where compensation will be paid by the offender, but the offender has no financial resources, the State will advance payment of the compensation.³⁷²

ARSIS has noted gaps between policies and practice. Whilst legislation states child victims should receive compensation, in reality this does not occur due to bureaucratic mechanisms and significant resource gaps.³⁷³

358 *Ibid.* 40.

359 U.S Department of State. (2019). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 214

360 *Law 4540/2018*, which transposes the recast *EU Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU* into domestic law

361 Mijatovic, Dunja. (2018, November 6). *Report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, following her visit to Greece from 25 to 29 June 2018*. 7. Council of Europe: Strasbourg

362 In accordance with PACE Resolution 1810 (2011)PACE, *Unaccompanied children in Europe: issues of arrival, stay and return, Resolution 1810 (2011)*, adopted on 15 April 2011.

363 EKKA. (2019, November). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece*.

364 *Ibid.*

365 Human Rights Council (2016), *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 – Greece*, 62.

366 European Committee of Social Rights. (2018, December 21). *International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) v. Greece Complaint No. 173/2018*.

367 *Ibid.*

368 *Penal Code* Articles 63 and 68. [Translated from Greek].

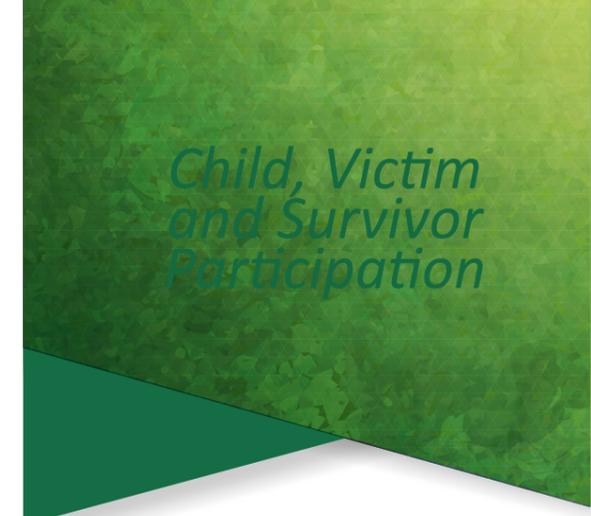
369 Council of Europe (2017), *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. 179

370 U.S Department of State (2019), *2019 Trafficking in Persons Reports: Greece*.

371 *Civil Code*, Article 932. [Translated from Greek].

372 *Penal Code*. Articles. 111. [Translated from Greek]

373 ARSIS. (2019, June). Personal communication.



CHILD, VICTIM AND SURVIVOR PARTICIPATION

Greece's recent implementation of the Hellenic National Strategy for Youth 2017-2027³⁷⁴ marks a concerted effort by the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs, to improve youth participation in advocacy, awareness raising and policy making.³⁷⁵ The strategy is structured through seven main objectives, aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.³⁷⁶ Factored into this strategy is a monitoring and evaluation process,³⁷⁷ however as of 2019 no update on the progress of the plan has been published. Whilst not clearly outlining explicit actions that will be taken in regards to SEC, the National Strategy does reference vulnerable youth and the importance of addressing vulnerabilities that can facilitate SEC, such as poverty³⁷⁸ and lack of education.³⁷⁹

The Hellenic National Youth Council (ESYN), founded in July 1998 is the official body representing Greek youth in Greece and abroad.³⁸⁰ Its membership consists of fifty nine youth organizations, six political youth parties and numerous non-government youth organizations. Nationally, the council participates in the Inter-

Ministerial Committee for Youth, the Organizing Committee of the Youth Parliament, the National Committee on Volunteering, among others. ESYN, was consulted during the drafting process of the National Strategy for Youth 2017-2027.³⁸¹ Notable campaigns organized by the ESYN in relation to SEC, include the Hellenic National Youth Council 2019 festival for International Day against drug abuse and trafficking.³⁸²

In regards to OCSE, an active body of 27 students from different parts of Greece have created the Youth Panel of the Greek Safer Internet Centre. They engaged in the Safer Internet Day Celebration, received training from events organised at the European level between the youth panels and collaborated with members of the Insafe network.³⁸³

In relation to victim and survivor's participation it is non-governmental organisations that take the role of coordinating victim and survivor participation activities. Non-governmental organizations such as ARSIS are involved in coordinating and developing new methods and tools for youth support and participation in youth solidarity networks. ARSIS works predominantly with children and youth aged 15-24.³⁸⁴

374 General Secretariat for Youth and Lifelong Learning. (2018, May) *Strategic Framework for the Empowerment of Youth*. Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs: Athens; General Secretariat of New Generation. (n.d) *What is 'Youth 17-27'*

375 Giannaki, D. *Youth work in Greece: a historical overview*.

376 Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs. (2018, May) *Strategic Framework for the Empowerment of Youth*. 16.

377 *Ibid.* 14.

378 *Ibid.* 25.

379 *Ibid.* 35.

380 *Hellenic National Youth Council H.NYC*

381 ESYN. (2018, June 2). *With a strong presence, the National Youth Council at an event in Thessaloniki*.

382 Enimerosi (2019, June 15) *14th Hellenic National Youth Council (ESYN) Festival for International Day Against Drug Abuse and ILLICIT Trafficking*.

383 *Greek Safer Internet Centre*

384 ARSIS. (n.d). *ARSIS Linked in Profile*.

Recommendations for Action

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEGISLATION, COMMITMENTS AND COORDINATION TO ENDING SEC

- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure;
- Ratify the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics;
- Strengthen existing international police and judicial cooperation through multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements to improve prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of sexual exploitation of children crimes. Develop mechanisms to co-ordinate the implementation of such arrangements.

NATIONAL RESPONSE TO SEC MANIFESTATIONS

- Create, fund and implement a National Plan of Action against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children. This should be run through a centralised coordinated body;
- National standard operating procedures should be established and implemented which include introducing a cohesive data collection system and national victim identification protocol for reporting victims of sexual exploitation;

- Improve regulations and monitoring of child, early and forced marriage by removing exceptions allowing children to get married below 18. This should also include a systematic collection of data on child marriage;
- Remove the application of double criminality principle for extraterritoriality and extradition provisions;
- Consider adopting the recommendations from the CONVEY project. Specifically, the Ministry of Education Science and Religion should implement a National Strategy against Sexual Abuse or Assault in schools from Kindergarten to secondary education in order to address attitudes that blame victims, the culture of victim blaming and improve education around the topic of sexual violence and consent;
- Provide guidelines and training to law enforcement to increase their knowledge and skills to better identify child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes and other forms of sexual exploitation. This could include, rolling out the ARSIS child-sensitive justice training to all court personnel and continuing with PROTASIS's training programme in line with the Victim Directive;
- Improve awareness raising campaigns by specifically targeting issues of sexual exploitation of children, particularly online child sexual exploitation and sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND RIGHT TO REMEDIES FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- Improve access and implementation procedures to ensure child victims actually receive legal aid;
- Improve victim-sensitive justice by taking measures to systematically facilitate in-camera proceedings through provision of equipment and training of judges;
- Ensure anonymity of trafficking victims in cases of sexual exploitation of children.

CHILD, VICTIM AND SURVIVOR PARTICIPATION

- Ensure that children, including child victims, are included in the drafting and implementation of national plan of actions that affect children and youth;
- Design strategies to involve child victims and survivors in specific programmes related to sexual exploitation of children in a safe and empowering manner that does not exacerbate their victimisation.

RESEARCH NEEDS AND AGENDA

- Conduct a comprehensive research study on boys exploited in prostitution in order to shed light on the scale, scope and context of the phenomenon. This should include studies on both unaccompanied minors and the Roma community;
- Conduct research on the links between sexual exploitation of children, migration and trafficking in order to inform national policies and plans and tackle the phenomenon;
- Collect disaggregated information and maintain a comprehensive database on all cases of sexual exploitation of children.

Acronyms

ARSIS	Association for the Social Support of Youth
BECAN	Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect
CEFM	Child, early and forced marriage
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSAM	Child sexual abuse material
CSEM	Child sexual exploitation material
CSO	Civil society organization
EU	European Union
EKKA	National Centre for Social Solidarity
ESYN	The Hellenic National Youth Council
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INHOPE	International Association of Internet Hotlines
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation
ISP	Internet Service Provider
OCSE	Online child sexual exploitation
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
SEC	Sexual exploitation of children
SECTT	Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism



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