

**NO MINOR
THING**



STORIES



These stories describe situations of sexual exploitation from various perspectives. The stories provide a nuanced impression of the context of sexual exploitation and convey the complexity of the problem.



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DAPHNE

VICTIM, GIRL, 17

Daphne always dreamed of becoming a model. One day a friend offered to introduce her to a model agent with connections. He took her to the agent's home. Daphne was really enthusiastic, but she had a bad feeling as soon as she entered the room and sat down at the table.

That afternoon she was raped numerous times. The 'model agent' took photos and made videos of the rape and used them to blackmail her. He also threatened her. That's how he kept control of her.

Source: Fier Magazine

Daphne was sexually exploited under the supervision of a network, which lasted ten months. She gradually changed into a robot, scarcely feeling anything any longer. She lost her friends and was too afraid and ashamed to tell them what was happening.

The only thing that felt safe was discussing her situation in an online chat room, where she could remain anonymous. A boy in the chat room advised her to go to the police. A few hours later she walked into a police station and was immediately referred to an emergency shelter.

Daphne lost her trust in men and still suffers from trauma. The worst thing of all, she thinks, is that not a single man was concerned about her. Sometimes she lay shivering or crying violently during sex. The men pretended they noticed nothing and were concerned with nothing but their lust. Talking about what happened is still difficult: it hurts her, she feels dirty and she is ashamed about what happened to her. Today she is pursuing her modelling career. She feels safe and self-confident in front of the camera.

JAMIE

HUMAN TRAFFICKER, MALE, 21

Jamie grew up with an extremely violent father who abused him and his mother. Although Jamie was scared of his father, he was his big hero: a big, strong pimp with lots of money and always surrounded by women. Jamie wasn't interested in school; he wanted to make money quickly, just like his father.

From a young age, still at boarding school, Jamie started to arrange for young girls to meet men for money. He persuaded vulnerable girls and promised them beautiful things. Many of the girls had already been abused and had nobody to turn to. He let the girls believe that together they could build up something, but first they had to help him pay off his debts. The girls he had charmed were quick to do what he wanted.

Jamie exploited not only girls but also boys. He threatened the boys and their families by using violence and blackmailing them with photos and videos.

He made his victims work behind windows in the red light district, but especially in hotels and apartments. To Jamie it was all business. He could switch off his feelings, something he had learned earlier from his father. The work was dirty, but the money wasn't. He felt he was a businessman doing business.

After 35 reports to the police, Jamie was sentenced to four years in prison with involuntary treatment. He is now being treated, but according to Jamie it has come far too late. He should have received treatment when he was expelled from boarding school. Now that he's older, he sees things differently. In the future he wants to advise children at school.

Source: Fier Magazine

SAMANTHA

VICTIM, GIRL, 15

Samantha didn't receive much attention at home. Her parents were busy with her brothers and sisters, and they had financial problems. The situation at home caused her to drink and take drugs. One evening she met Aram in a nightclub. He gave her attention and wanted her as a girlfriend. He was handsome, kind, interesting, and had money too. Their relationship made her feel special and loved, but then Aram started to assert more and more authority over her and became aggressive.

Then Aram's brother suggested using Samantha to earn money for them through sex. Aram picked her up from school and dropped her back again after school so that her family didn't notice she was gone. The first time, Samantha had to watch how two other girls had sex with men. Then she had to get undressed, take drugs and do it herself.

She was afraid to stop, because Aram threatened her. He used photos and videos to blackmail her. Her parents knew something was amiss, but they thought Samantha still struggled with the memory of the time she was raped at age thirteen, and so they did nothing.

After a while a friend noticed that things weren't okay with Samantha and took her away from the apartment. Now she stays in sheltered accommodation in the hope of building up a better relationship with her family and finishing school. She no longer sees Aram, though she still loves him. Even if she knows what he did was terrible.

Source: *Maak het Zichtbaar van Centrum Kindermishandel Mensenhandel*

MARCO

SOMEONE WHO PAYS FOR SEX WITH A CHILD, MALE, 40

Marco used to be rather overweight and was ridiculed because of it. Apart from the fact that his parents were divorced and his father was an alcoholic, he describes his youth as reasonably happy. He had a few close friends that he spent lots of time with.

He lost his sense of self-confidence after breaking up with his girlfriend. He became very insecure and thought he would never find another girlfriend.

Marco often paid prostitutes* to visit him at home. In selecting them he paid attention to culture, background and age (preferably young and slender). Marco realized that many of the prostitutes weren't doing this voluntarily, that they ended up in this world because of a bad boyfriend. But he didn't think about that when responding to an ad. He deliberately avoided thinking about the actual plight of the prostitute*, because he knew it would put him off. He convinced himself that he wouldn't be able to save everybody.

Marco believed he was making use of a normal commercial service when he phoned a prostitute; it was business. If he contacted a girl, she could always refuse. If she didn't do that, then he and the girl agreed as equals on what they were doing, he thought.

Marco often feels he is being punished by life. What he wants most of all is a nice girlfriend.

Source: *blog by former prostitute Rabia Pearl*

**The use of the word prostitute suggests that the she/he is 18 or older, but that's not always the case. If a boy or girl is younger than 18, she/he is a victim of human trafficking. (See also the document 'Worth knowing before you start').*

ARMIN

HUMAN TRAFFICKER, MALE, 21

Armin got to know sixteen-year-old Kimberly when they were out clubbing. Although Armin didn't know how old she was, they had sex and ended up in a relationship. Kimberly fell madly in love with him. The relationship broke up, but two months later Kimberly went to Armin with the idea of working as a prostitute.

According to Kimberly, there came a time when she could only see Armin if she paid him 100 euros. She only earned 300 euros per month with her part-time job at a supermarket, so she couldn't see him that often. Then Armin asked if she would have sex for money. Kimberly asked if he could arrange it, and he said he could.

Armin paid the hotels where Kimberly worked. He stayed close to make sure nothing happened to her.

Kimberly received four or five men a day in her hotel room. Armin told the men who paid him for the sex, that Kimberly was 19 years old. Armin advised Kimberly to have no contact with her parents, because it would make her emotional.

Armin has no guilty conscience about what he did. He argues that he was there to protect her. He claims he had no bad intentions with Kimberly. He thinks what happened is terrible, but says he can do nothing about it now.

Source: article from the AD:
*Klanten stonden in de rij voor
16-jarig slachtoffer loverboy*

JORDI

VICTIM, MALE, 25

Jordi was active for years, even while he was a child, in youth prostitution. It started when a friend told him how he could easily make lots of money: by offering his services on a 'gay website'. That's how Jordi got to know a 54-year-old man. They agreed to meet in his chalet for 15 minutes, where they would perform sexual acts, but would not have sex. He thought it was an easy way to earn money. No longer did he have to work for a pittance.

Jordi had sex with all sorts of people, from butchers to directors – nice people, arrogant people, crazy people, dangerous people, family fathers. He noticed that they preferred the youngest boys. When Jordi had been in that world for some time, he received requests from various cities to groom underage boys.

He had to have sex with them first so that they would have some experience on their first date.

Now that he has left that world behind, Jordi looks back on a turbulent time. He experienced all sorts of things, saw it all. He earned a lot of money, but has nothing to show for it, except a lot of misery and a lot that needs explaining. Jordi thinks it wasn't worth all the misery.

Source: documentary
*Dutch Injustice- When Child
Traffickers Rule a Nation*

JAN

VICTIM, MALE, 30

Jan left home at the age of 14. He ended up at Amsterdam Central Station and was picked up by a man who offered him food and shelter. Jan accepted the offer, since he had nowhere else to go. He believed that the man would help him build up a new life.

The next day Jan woke up naked. He had been given drugs and couldn't remember anything. The man had taken photos of Jan and forced him into prostitution by threatening to send the pictures to his parents.

He ended up in a brothel with seven other boys aged 14-18. Jan met men at the brothel or was sent to their homes. He was also taken to parties and had to perform sexual acts in cars. He encountered many paedosexuals in high positions. They made sure they were never seen at brothels.

After a day's work he had to sleep in the same bed in which he had worked.

When an investigation into sexual exploitation of children in the Netherlands was launched, Jan was asked to be a witness. He initially refused because he was afraid of the consequences, but in the end he did. On one occasion there was an attempt to silence him, when somebody tried to shoot him on his way to football practice. This traumatic situation meant that Jan could not grow up as a normal person. He has never had a girlfriend and didn't go to university, as he wanted to do. He says his life is ruined.

Source: documentary
*Dutch Injustice- When Child
Traffickers Rule a Nation*

PIET

SOMEONE WHO PAYS FOR SEX WITH A CHILD, MALE, 36

Piet visited the same prostitute* a number of times. Each time he got to know the girl better. He suspected that she was lying about who she really was and that she might be in trouble. That didn't feel right.

After one of their encounters, Piet started to investigate. He tracked her down online and discovered who her mother was. He phoned her mother anonymously and told her that her daughter had sex for money.

Her mother then went to the police. An investigation was launched and her human trafficker was arrested. It eventually came out that Piet had paid her for sex too. When his social environment found out, he lost his job, his wife and contact with his children. Although he had sex with a child, Piet received no punishment because he was a whistle-blower.

Source: Story based
on a conversation with an
official from the Dutch Public
Prosecution Service

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suggests that the girl is 18
or older, but that's not always
the case. If a boy or girl is
younger than 18, she/he is a
victim of human trafficking.
(See also the document 'Worth
knowing before you start').

ROOS

VICTIM, GIRL, 17

Roos lived in a care institution against her will. She thought of a way to earn money quickly so that she could build up her own life outside the institution: she wanted to work as a prostitute.

Roos found out how she could earn money and what help she needed. For example, how could she find men who wanted to pay for sex? She knew somebody who was sure to help her.

Things started to develop and soon she was earning lots of money. She ran away from the institution. When the social workers noticed that Roos was gone, they checked her room for clues. There they came across a sketch of her business plan, including the names of people who wanted to help her and men whom she had paid sex with.

The police found Roos in another part of the country and she was returned to the institution. The people who had assisted her were prosecuted for human trafficking. Roos was extremely angry, because it was her choice to go into prostitution. The boy who had helped her was outraged that he was prosecuted for human trafficking. After all, the only thing he had done was pass her names and occasionally escort her to her appointments, he said.

*Source: Story based
on a conversation with an
official from the Dutch Public
Prosecution Service*