PHILIPPINES

THE PROBLEM

SLAVERY

People travel to the Philippines from all over the world for its beaches, mountain ranges and enterprise. But underneath the beauty, there is a form of slavery called online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC).

IJM has worked alongside Philippine authorities since 2000, with great success. An IJM study found 86% fewer children being sold for sex in bars and brothels in Pampanga after four years of IJM's collaborative work. But today, OSEC is on the rise. Online predators send payments to adults in the Philippines in exchange for streaming the live sexual abuse of young children. IJM Philippines is strengthening justice systems by mentoring law enforcement, public prosecutors, judges, and partner organizations that provide aftercare for OSEC survivors. Together, we are innovating improvements that serve survivors, deter criminals and set a global standard of excellence in combatting this crime.

IJM PHILIPPINES PROGRESS SINCE 2000

623

Survivors rescued from commercial sex trafficking and sexual violence (2006-2016)

658

Rescued from online sexual exploitation of children (2011-June 2020)

90

Perpetrators convicted for online sexual exploitation of children (2011-2020)

THE FACTS

There are an estimated **750,000 predators online** at any given moment.[1]

According to global law enforcement data, **the Philippines is the largest known source** of OSEC cases.

The median age of victims is **11 years old** and the average period of abuse is **two years.**

[1]UN.

"I am inspired by the social workers who don't stop helping survivors like me. I am so inspired by how they try to be strong for the clients they serve. I too have a passion to help survivors see that there is hope after rescue, and that there are people who can help us if we let them."

JOY, a survivor of online sexual exploitation of children*

Joy's Story

As a child, Joy dreamed of going to school and being a nurse. But when she was just 10 years old, she was trafficked by a trusted neighbourhood woman she called "Boss." While customers in countries like the U.S., Australia and Germany drive the demand, traffickers like Boss record and broadcast the abuse of children in exchange for money.

It took some time for Joy to understand what was happening to her, but even once she recognized the abuse, she didn't know that people were looking for her. IJM's team in Cebu was working with Philippine law enforcement to stop Boss from exploiting children. In 2013, IJM supported police to arrest the trafficker and rescue 16 victims, including Joy.

In her aftercare home, Joy found the love and support she needed to heal, move forward in strength, grow in confidence and pursue her goals. Today, Joy has finished her studies and is on her way to becoming a social worker. She hopes to help those who have gone through the same experience that she has; and by sharing her story with other children and young adults, Joy is passing her strength and courage on to others.

*A pseudonym.

IJM PHILIPPINES MILESTONES

2000 – IJM Philippines opens its first office in Manila.

2005 – IJM's first conviction – A man is sentenced to prison for raping a 13-year-old girl.

2016 – 75% fewer minors sold for sex – In a 7-year period, the number of minors available for commercial sex trafficking in Metro Manila plummeted by 75%.

2017 – First OSEC conviction – In IJM's first case of OSEC, a Filipino man is convicted for exploiting children.

2018 – 100th child victim rescued from OSEC.

2019 – The Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC) was inaugurated.

2020 – The groundbreaking study, "Online Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Philippines: Analysis and Recommendations for Governments, Industry, and Civil Society," was released.

CASEWORK SUBTYPES

Online sexual exploitation of children: A form of sex trafficking involving the live-streaming of sexual exploitation of children over the internet. Customers anywhere in the world pay and direct the sexual abuse from their own homes.

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