

CAPTIONS :

« alles wird gut » (everything's gonna be fine)

A mixed media art project
(sculpture, photography and video)
against child abuse & paedophilia

by
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Photo 01 –

Bathroom: usually describing the space in a home where you can wash off dirt.

When abused by an adult he relies on, a child will often believe he is responsible for the situation, that he alone has done something wrong as opposed to the adult at fault. Disregarding the physical and psychological effects of rape, in addition the victim is often incapable of having close relations for most of his later life.



Photo 02 –

But he has always been such a nice uncle.

The majority of sexual abuse occurs within the family. According to the American Ministry of Justice, in the case of 93% of victims, the convicted are family members or friends of parents. The critical age at which children are most likely to be sexually abused is 14 for girls and 4 for boys.



Photo 03 –

Only when he is drinking

Abuse is not always physical. The children who witness scenes of domestic violence are also the victims. When a father beats a mother, his children are indirectly damaged. In this scene I blame the mother as well as the father. She stays there, putting up with it, forgiving her husband's actions instead of taking her children in her arms and getting away.



Photo 04 –

He loved everything about Thailand : the sun, the food, the culture.

Sexual tourism in Thailand started during the Vietnam War, when the soldiers were on leave. Today, it is part of the expanding sex industry which includes prostitution, pornography and human trafficking. Although the Vietnamese are the biggest clients in their own sex industry, tourists from around the world represent a significant proportion of these sex consumers. Because the paedophilic acts take place in discrete places, even hidden, it is extremely difficult to count and document them reliably. The available figures list between 30000 and 40000 Vietnamese under the age of 18 exploited as prostitutes (not counting the minors of different nationalities.) (ECPAT UK).



Photo 05 –

Austria ? Belgium ? Somewhere.

This happens every day, all over the world: a young child or an adolescent is kidnapped, hidden in a cellar or a box room, and then violated whilst being filmed. The film resurfaces on the internet or eventually in a sex-shop. Is the child is “lucky,” he is freed.



Photo 06 –

That night they had a whole chicken and were allowed to eat as much rice as they wanted.

In Southeast Asia, especially in Cambodia and Thailand, it is most often a question of survival that pushes large and poverty-stricken families to sell their children. Human traffickers pay around 150 or 200 Euros per child, often promising that the child will have a “real job” or will be adopted by rich and kind people in the West. (Rafferty, Bangkok Post)



Photo 07 –

Gone.

They are Marc Dutroux, Josef Fritwl or Phillip Garrido. They are the monsters who lock up young girls, often for years, rape them and get them pregnant over regular intervals, in the end sometimes killing them. Newspapers put them on the front page, revealing each repugnant detail of their actions. As a result, we think we know what happens to the children. My opinion differs. The suffering of these young girls is unimaginable.



Photo 08 –

...you know, kids at that age have such a wild imagination...

Unfortunately, we often do not understand or believe children of a very young age when they say: he's mean to me. As children are not yet experienced sexually, they cannot make the difference between a kind caress and sexual molestation and are therefore unable to express it. In addition, each person present in these young children's lives, not just the parents, is a role model. In any case, everything an adult does is always in the child's best interest, wouldn't you think?



Photo 09 –

Storage.

The word trafficking is too vague to correctly define the trade and transportation of human beings, the young girls who are bought and sold throughout Europe like objects. These girls, coming from poor countries, are often victims of false promises like a well paid job or an attractive sounding training. They are then recruited and smuggled abroad. Once there, their passports are taken from them, they are kept hidden, forced into prostitution in the aim of "receiving" up to 15 clients a day. Obviously, they see no sign of the money. The pimps are often brutal; they violate their victims to ensure they demand for nothing in their subsequent fear. After a couple of months, many of these young girls are resold and sent to another place. Most of the time they have no idea where they are. In Austria, the word trafficking is translated as "cross-border prostitution".



Photo 10 –

Go soldier, go!

There are around three hundred thousand (300000) child soldiers in the world. Each year, this figure increases as still more children are recruited for conflict. For example, in the RUF (Revolutionary United Front) camps of Sierra Leone, traumatised children are kept and "trained" over a period of two or three months. They are threatened with death if they disobey or try to run away. They often endure brutal initiations involving the killing or mutilation of those who have already tried to escape (BBC world service).



Photo 11 –

HIV vaccination.

In certain parts of Africa it is believed that a man can rid himself of aids if he takes the virginity of a young girl and comes into contact with her blood. Those subjected to the rape are often extremely young. Effectively, the man wants to be sure his victim is definitely a virgin.



Photo 12 –

He never forced anyone, it was them who wanted it

In 1998 the “Child Victim Identification Program,” the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s database, counted 100000 cases of child sex abuse on the internet. Ten years later, in 2008, it was 15 million. Each day, 200 new images are uploaded according to Reuters (Innocence in danger, Reuters, 10th December 2009.) Europol (the European police office) has announced the arrest of 115 presumed paedophiles, including teachers and school supervisors, over 19 countries during a vast operation against internet pedo-pornography. They confirm that, thanks to this 2 year operation, 5 victims of sex abuse, between the ages of 4 and 12, have been identified in different countries. In total, 221 suspects were reported. Progress, but only a drop in the ocean.



Photo 13 –

Her stepfather loved her very, very much/

“Over the years, a young girl was abused by her stepfather.” Unfortunately, headlines such as this are common and we read them more and more frequently. Sometimes we think: “the poor child,” “What a monster!” or “How could the mother not notice anything?” I pose the question: Are there not others who might have suspected it? Neighbours? Teachers? Friends? A brother, an aunt, the other parent? What is worse? To be over suspicious or the consequences of a childhood spent being sexually abused?



Photo 14 –

Cooldaddy : QT, how old RU ? want 2B model? IM a famous photographer. Send more pix.

Before the internet, paedophiles had limited means to make contact with children. Today they pretty much have a carte blanche. Of course there are no official figures, like for example the number of those on line and chatting to minors right now. Or how they do it or where they go. One thing is certain and terrifying: there are far too many.



Photo 15 –

She wouldn't go to court, just the thought of having to face their grins once more was killing her.

Sweden, spring 2009. Sofie, a young girl, kills herself. She was expected at court a couple of hours later. The lawyer of the alleged rapist, who was 42 years old, had demanded to consider all the possible options, even though Sofie had already gone over the details of each stage of her rape over a period of eight hours and under police video-surveillance. With the victim no longer alive, the trial and charge were cancelled. The alleged paedophile was freed.



Photo 16 –

His teacher was really funny ; she always made them laugh – about him.

These are rarely mentioned cases. Time and again, parents believe a teacher over their own child. Every day, teachers tease pupils to “amuse themselves” or “calm down the class” about, for example, their school marks or their appearance. This nastiness does not only last a minute but can result in permanent damage of character.



Photo 17 –

Babylove

There are different forms of covert child abuse which incidentally cannot be seen from a legal point of view. In this scenario, a child is left crying on the kitchen floor. The parents, unperturbed, read a newspaper and speak on the phone. If taken to court for this, their response would be: but we didn't do anything...



Photo 18 –

You still want to play for the team, don't you...

Sports teachers and supervisors of extra-curricular activities are mainly well liked by children. It is also completely normal to attentively follow the coach's instructions. The child believes that if he were to say “I don't want to do that,” the answer would be “then you have no right to play for the team anymore.” Teachers sometimes use this position of power to have a stronger hold over certain schoolchildren.



Photo 19 –

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands...

...One of the most well known children's songs in the West, its title is nevertheless extremely sarcastic. These little plasticine Asian kids, shut up in cages, will never be happy. There is no particular story behind this photo. The scenario is more of a symbol for the continual suffering of children who are abandoned, sold, kidnapped and confined to slavery, prostitution or begging every single day.



Photo 20 –

alles wird gut... ? – everything's gonna be fine...?