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Ananova :

UK paedophiles are the fifth biggest travellers to Cambodia

British paedophiles are among the top five nationalities attracted to Cambodia by child sex tourism, according to a new report.

They are among the main culprits for buying sex from children in the country, a report by international aid and development agency World Vision said.

Only Chinese, French, US and German men travel to Cambodia in greater numbers to prey on children.

It is estimated that 30% of commercial sex workers in Cambodia are exploited children.

Half of them are sold to brothels by people they know. World Vision highlighted the case of Lee, a 15-year-old girl who was lured into prostitution by her aunt.

She was sold to a 50-year-old American man for four days for £274 and then sold on to various other men for as little as £20.

Out of 68 children interviewed by World Vision, 88% had been involved in providing sex services for tourists.

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Some had been held captive by pimps and brothel-owners for months or even years.

Laurence Gray of World Vision said: "Sex tourists are attracted to economically poor countries by factors that include low-cost prostitution, wide availability and perceived impunity from prosecution.

"With 65% of tourists visiting Cambodia last year being men the country has been increasingly linked to child prostitution.

"Sex tourism is a black eye on the entire tourist industry. Children deserve better than this and it's a situation that can be prevented right from the outset if all governments will only take this issue seriously."

Story filed: 13:26 Sunday 16th December 2001

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