



**Children
at Risk**

In need of targeted support

The role of Barnahus in identification and investigation of child trafficking and the support and assistance provided to victims



Watch the recording here:
<https://youtu.be/FACIUOVIVfY>

Collaboration

Agenda



Welcome

Moderator, Shawнна von Blixen, PROMISE Barnahus
Network Coordinator, CBSS

In need of targeted support

Nadine Finch and Rebecca O'Donnell, Child Circle

15:20 to 15:30 BREAK

Adapting practice to cases involving potentially trafficked children

Noora Halmeenlaakso and Julia Korkmann,
Barnahus Finland

Discussion

What next?

Olivia Lind Haldorsson, CBSS and
Nadine Finch and Rebecca O'Donnell, Child Circle

16:30 END

Housekeeping



- **Mute** when not speaking
- We actively watch the **chat**
- **Break** about halfway through the webinar
- This meeting is being **recorded** for future use. Any questions or concerns about this, please *direct message* me in the chat.

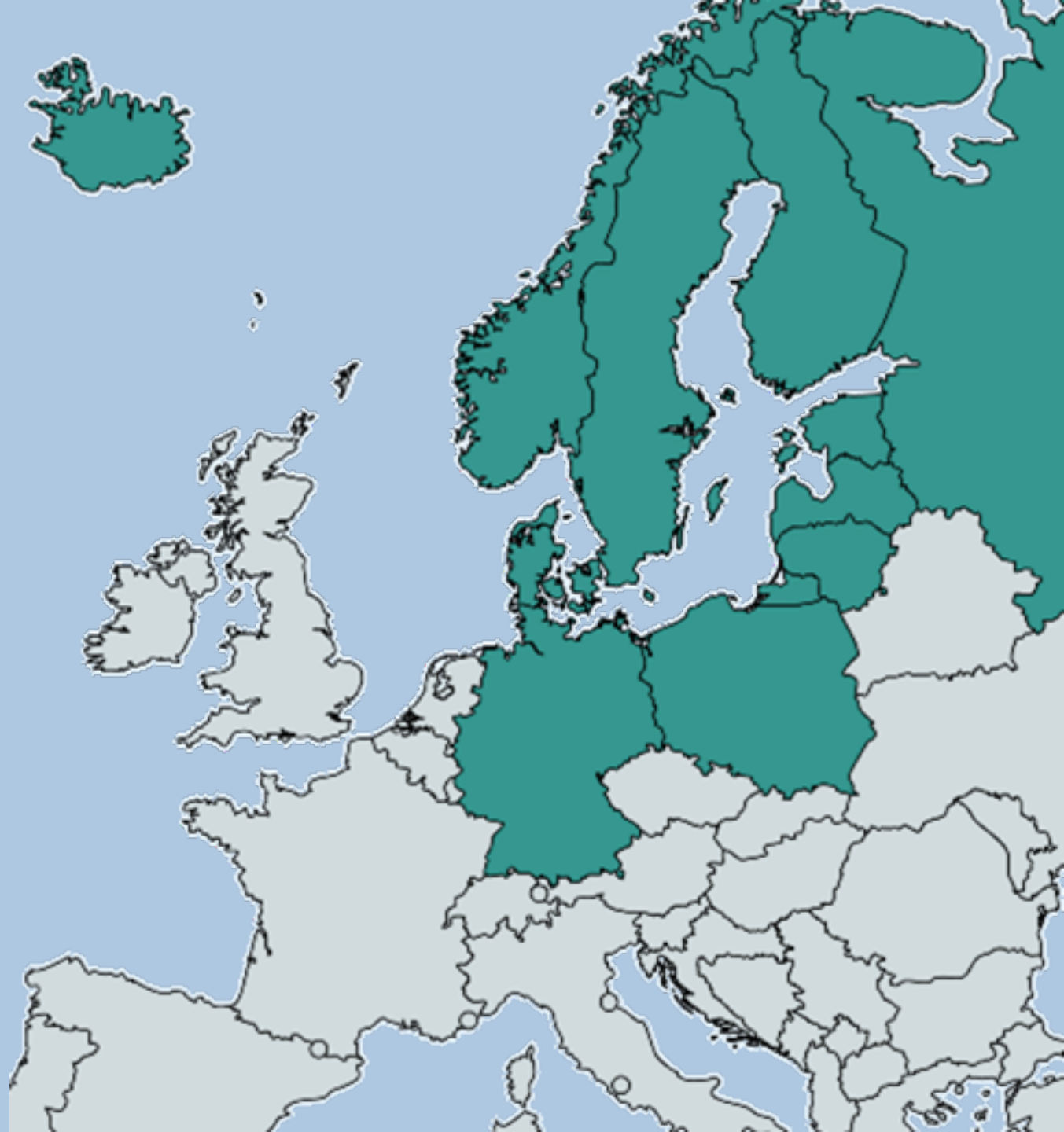
Established by Denmark & Germany (1992)

- political forum
- regional intergovernmental cooperation
- tackle geopolitical changes



Member States

Denmark
Estonia
Finland
Germany
Iceland
Latvia
Lithuania
Norway
Poland
Russia
Sweden
+ EU



Regional Identity

**Sustainable &
Prosperous Region**

**Safe & Secure
Region**



Safe & Secure Region

anti-trafficking

child protection

civil security

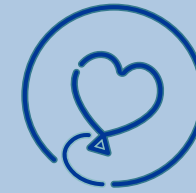


Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings



- Representatives working with trafficking issues in all CBSS Member States.
- Round up report of trafficking statistics every few years
- CBSS Joint statement of commitment to work against human trafficking for labour exploitation
- Training and guidance for journalists, about how to play a positive role in persuading the world that trafficking can be diminished if not eradicated.

Expert group on Children at Risk



**Children
at Risk**



Prevention and Early Intervention

Experience and research show that a proactive approach – with a priority on prevention and early intervention – delivers better outcomes for children, parents and families.



Justice and care

Promoting the rights of child victims and witnesses of violence to be heard, receive information, assistance and support through effective, professional and child-friendly and multidisciplinary interventions.

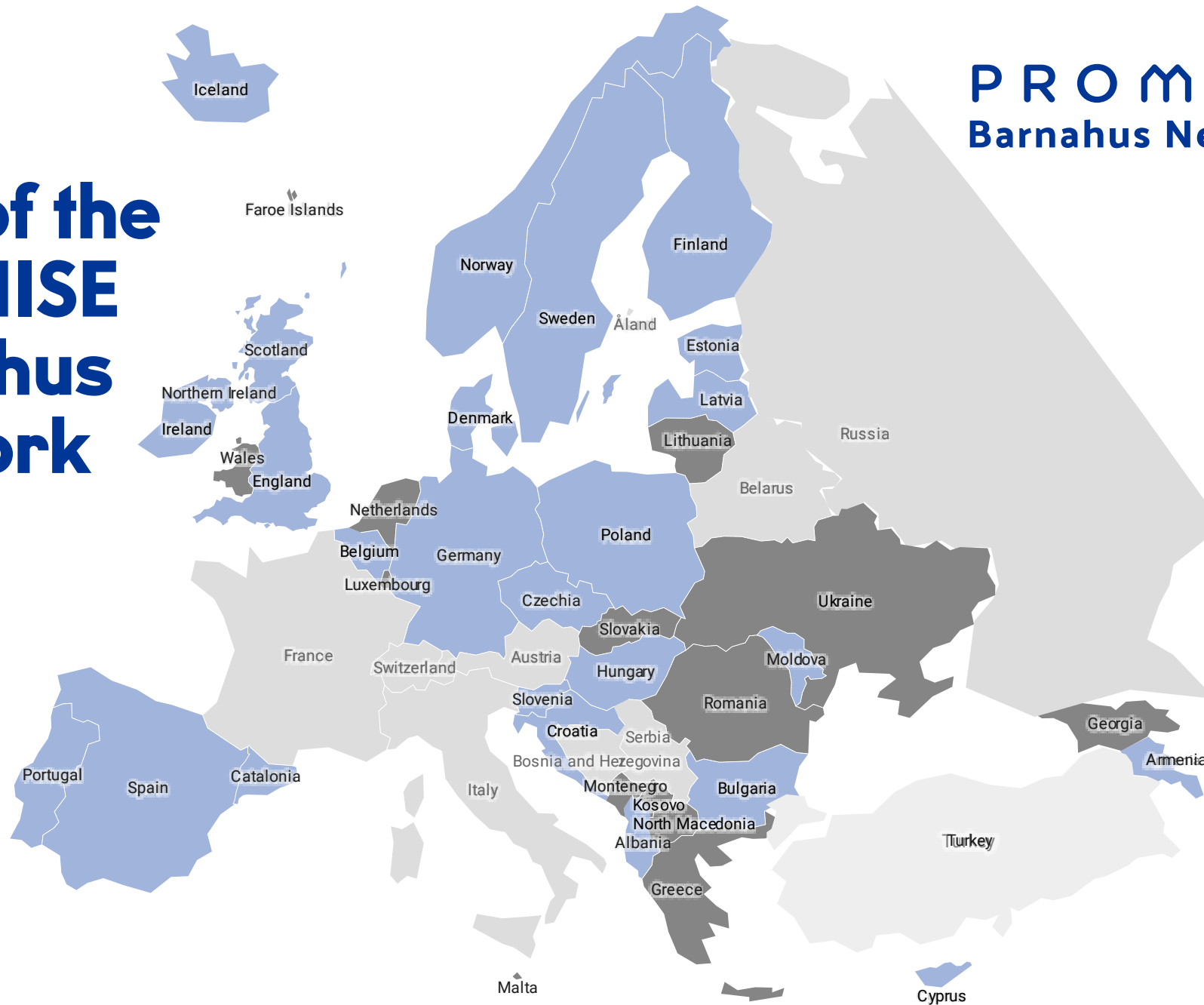


Safe and non-violent childhoods

Promoting international legal and policy instruments, concepts and guidance adopted by all CBSS Member States for children's rights and child protection through broad international and regional partnerships and alliances.

Host of the PROMISE Barnahus Network

PROMISE
Barnahus Network



Programmes and projects on child trafficking

[Link to this webpage](#)

News

Category



Trafficking



From

To

Reset Filters



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PROTECT Children on the Move

Children have better chances to be identified correctly and to receive appropriate support and care when they are given the opportunity to tell their stories and benefit from a best interests determination.

POSTED JUNE 1, 2018



Hearing the Child's Story – Regional expert conference adopts Oslo Conclusions

The results of a multi-country consultation process with child victims of exploitation and trafficking informed the discussion: the children had previously made recommendations on what kind of support is needed to exit difficult and exploitative situations.

POSTED MAY 31, 2018



Children trafficked for exploitation in begging and criminality

Young people in criminality and young people in street begging may be victims of exploitation where the acts they perform or are forced to perform are instigated as a part of organised criminality.

POSTED FEBRUARY 10, 2013



Information Management to Prevent Trafficking

A one-year project which mapped and identified resource persons and organisations to contribute vital information on trends related to child trafficking.

POSTED JULY 1, 2011



Norwegian chairmanship 2006-2007 features conference on the rights of children in institutions

The recommendations which laid the groundwork for the AudTrain programme.

POSTED JULY 16, 2007



Comprehensive Assistance to Children Victims of Trafficking

A two-year training programme for professionals working with assistance to children that have been trafficked, or that are unaccompanied.

POSTED JULY 16, 2007



Finnish chairmanship 2004-2005 features ministerial meeting on children at risk

The 2004-2005 Finnish chairmanship of the Expert Group featured a ministerial meeting, progress with the programme on Unaccompanied and trafficked children, and expanded use of the Child Centre.

POSTED JULY 16, 2005



The programme on unaccompanied and trafficked children in the region of the Baltic Sea States

The programme on unaccompanied and trafficked children included all the eleven CBSS member states. Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova also took part in the technical implementation and cooperation.

POSTED MAY 4, 2004

Publications and conclusions related to child trafficking

[Link to this webpage](#)

Publications

Category

Trafficking


Language

From


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In need of targeted support
JUNE 28, 2021




Listen Up! Creating conditions for children to speak and be heard
DECEMBER 1, 2018



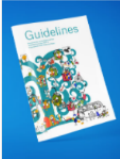
The Oslo Conclusions on Identifying Children at Risk of Exploitation and Trafficking
JUNE 28, 2018




The Stockholm Conclusions on protecting migrant and asylum-seeking children
DECEMBER 14, 2016




Addendum to the Guidelines for Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases
DECEMBER 8, 2016




Guidelines Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases
JANUARY 13, 2016




Transnational Child Protection: Practical guide for caseworkers and case officers
JANUARY 13, 2015




Children trafficked for exploitation in begging and criminality
APRIL 10, 2013




Trafficking in children – A criminal act calling for a child protection response
JUNE 30, 2011




Baltic Sea Region – Information Management to Prevent Trafficking
DECEMBER 16, 2010




The Frail Chain – Support for Child Victims of Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region
JANUARY 16, 2008




Statement following the Ministerial Roundtable Conference on the Social Aspects of Trafficking
OCTOBER 31, 2006



Conclusions from the meeting of



Plan of Action on Unaccompanied



Chairman's conclusions from the



[Link](#) to this document

Key points from the conclusions



- **Child-sensitive communication facilitates the identification** of acts of violence, exploitation and trafficking
- Identification and referral tends to be more effective when done by a **multi-disciplinary and interagency group and via a single identification procedure.**
- Interviewing children requires **trained professionals and a setting adapted specifically for children.**
- **Evidence-based interviewing protocols** are useful for all situations where children are heard.

Trafficking in the digital era

- Lithuanian Presidency conference May 2021
- Identification, investigation, safe paths to recovery and justice for children.
- Featured a youth panel.
- Watch recording [here](#).





[Link](#) to this document

Purpose:



Explore the role of Barnahus, or practice inspired by the model, in identifying, hearing, and assisting children who may have been trafficked

Methodology and consultations

- Commissioned by the CBSS Children at Risk Unit in connection with the Lithuanian Presidency of the CBSS
- Desk research conducted by Child Circle identified previous research and recommendations
- Remote focus groups with key experts in six countries in the region:
 - Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden.
 - Included child protection, child trafficking and criminal justice professionals.

Result:



Reflections on the current state of play, opportunities and obstacles to the use of Barnahus for children who may have been trafficked

Which brings us to ...

In need of targeted support

CBSS & CHILD CIRCLE

OCTOBER 2021

Introduction to the study



Six representative states – Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden



Desk research revealed previous research and recommendations



On-line interviews and focus groups and additional surveys



Benefits of on-line research



Need for involvement of those with lived experience in any follow up research



European Framework



TYPES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING



Sexual exploitation – including on-line and bacha bazi
Child and forced marriage
Labour exploitation – in hospitality, domestic servitude, agriculture, construction
Criminal exploitation – county lines, begging, street crime
Hybrid forms of child trafficking

Challenges in criminal prosecution

Sometimes narrow definition (or application) of child trafficking

Difficulties in identification

Delay in disclosure by children who may have been trafficked

On-going fear of or connection with traffickers

Lack of documentary evidence

Lack of detail about journey and/or exploitation

Weight given to testimony by a child

Cultural misunderstandings

Challenges in field of child protection

Lack of knowledge by professionals about child trafficking

Cultural misunderstandings

Child's fear of those in authority

Need for child to work to provide money to family or trafficking gang

Child's lack of understanding of criminal activity

Migration and residence status, transfer of children EU countries or third country states

FEATURES OF BARNAHUS PRACTICE

Child-centred,
multidisciplinary, inter-
agency approach,

Coordinating between
criminal justice and child
protection proceedings

Four rooms: child
protection; forensic
interviews, medical
examinations,
therapeutic needs

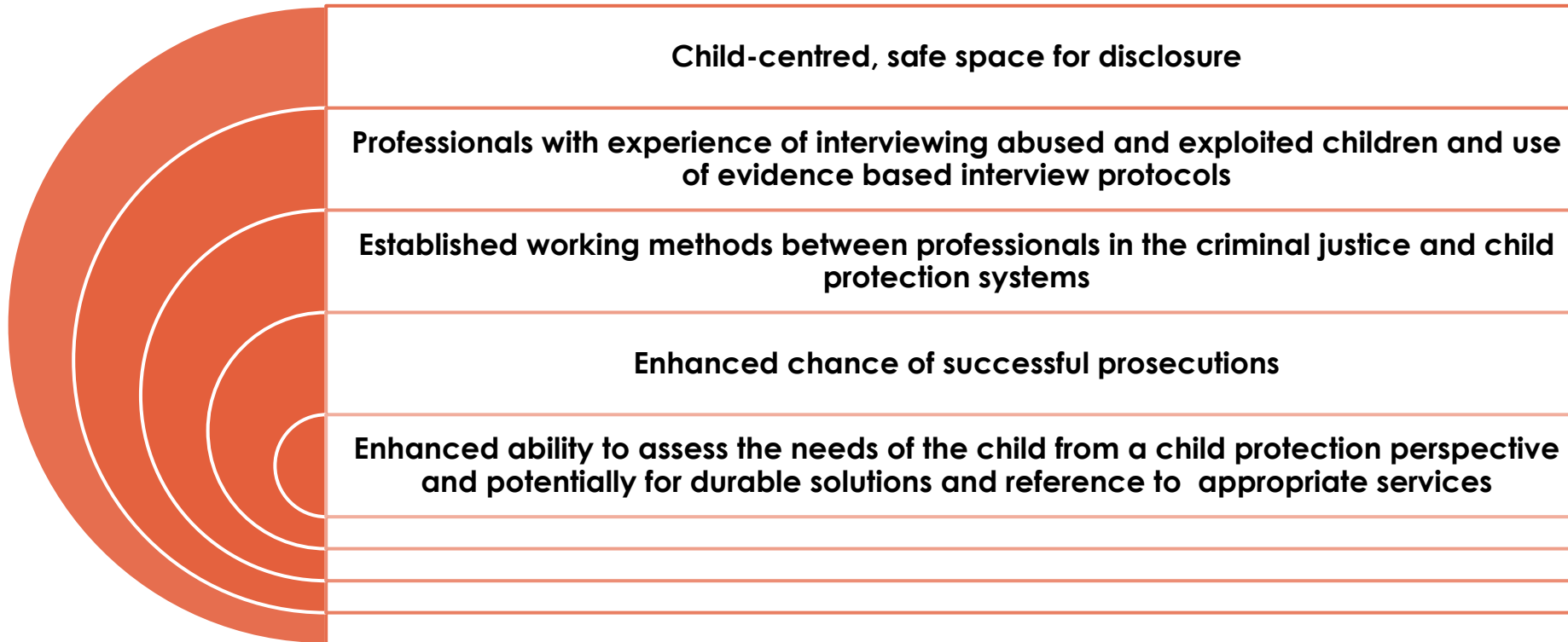
Referrals into Barnahus

Address violence against children and some focus on child sexual abuse

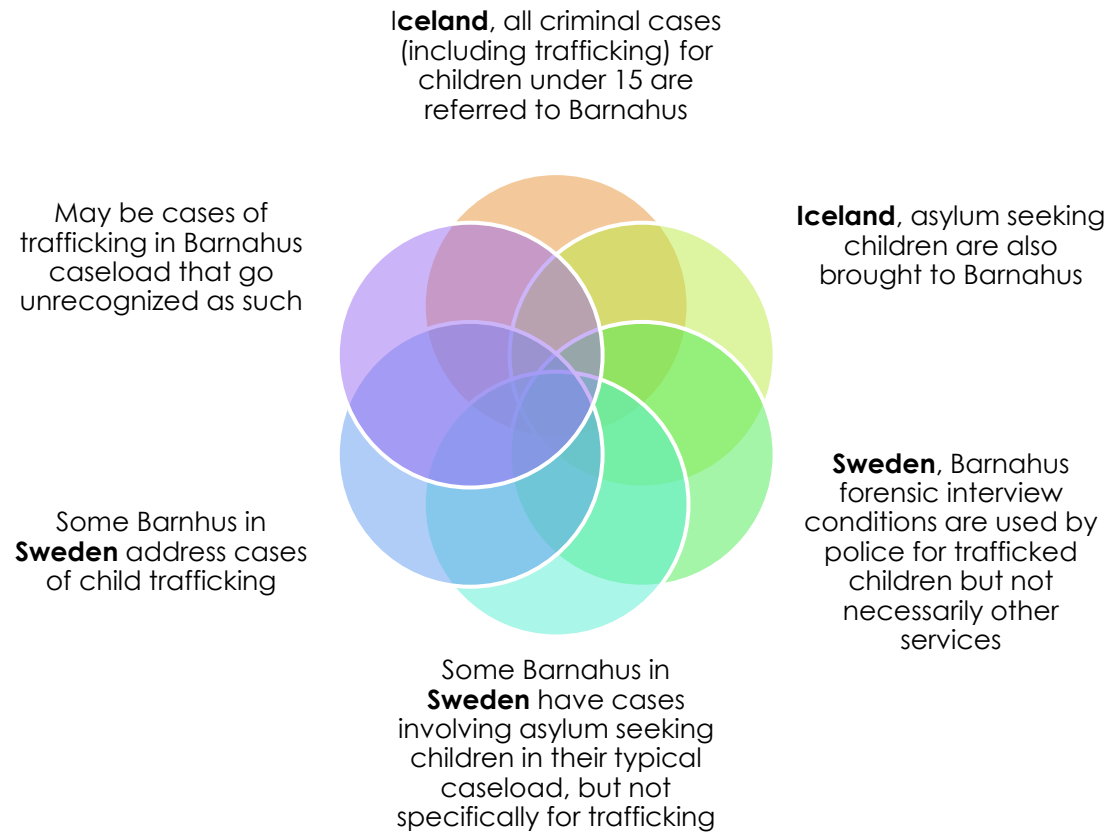
Often addressing cases involving national children, may have less experience with non-national children

Different ways in which children are referred into Barnahus, sometimes prompted by criminal investigation, sometimes out of concerns of child protection staff

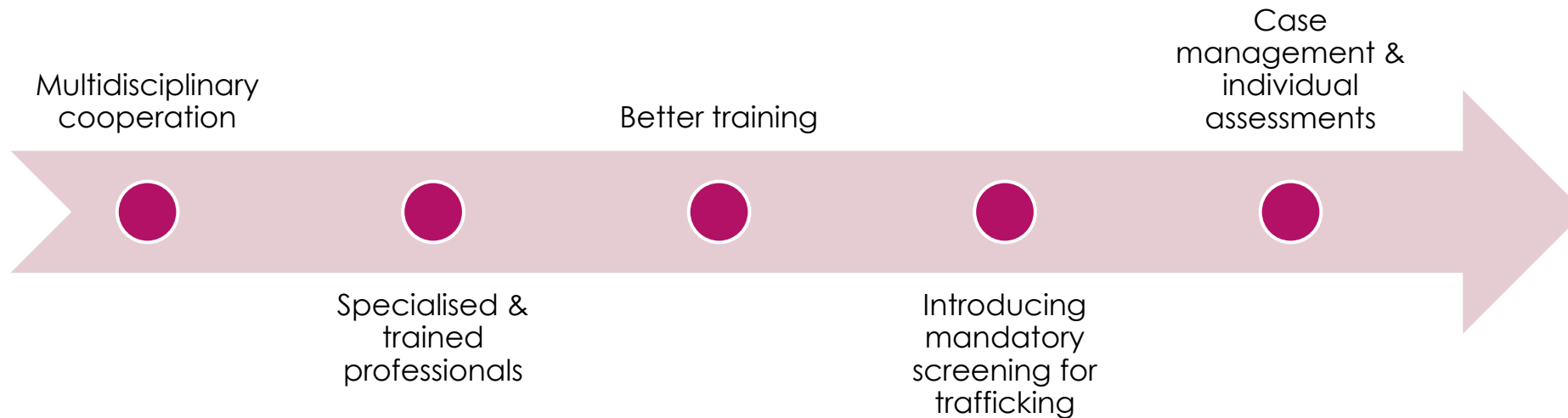
ADVANTAGE OF BARNAHUS LIKE PRACTICE



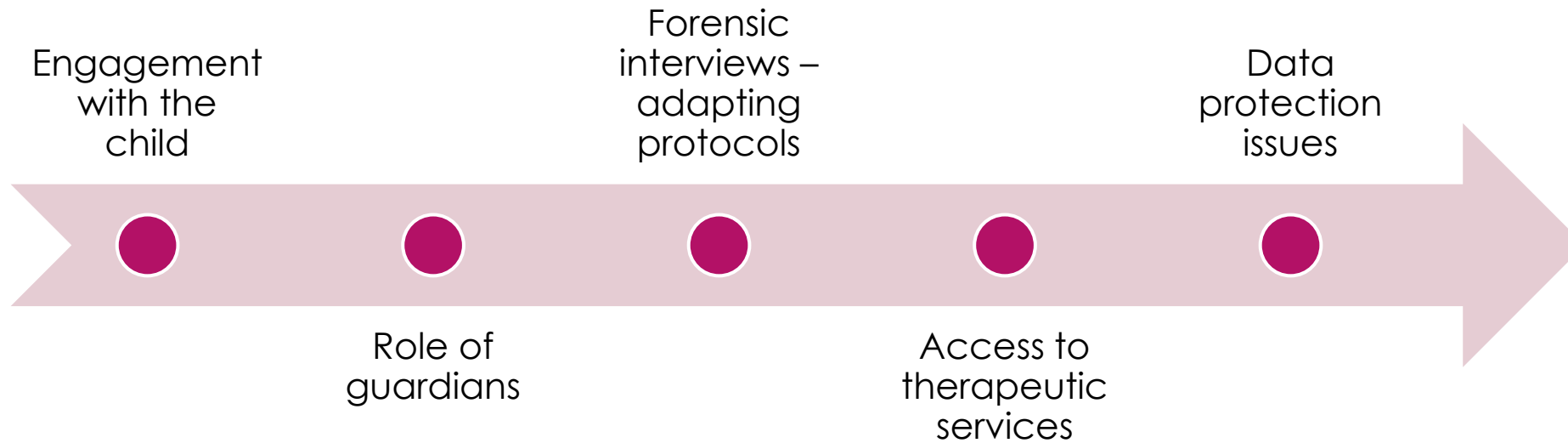
Some examples of current practice:



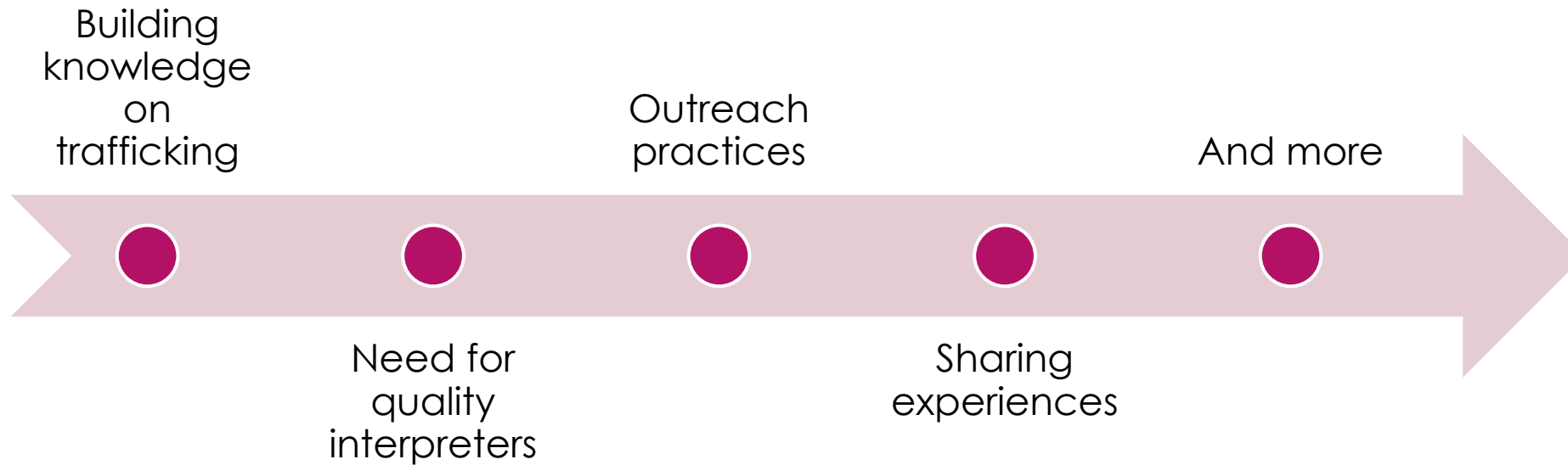
Exploring more extensive use of Barnahus in trafficking cases



Exploring more extensive use of Barnahus in trafficking cases



Exploring more extensive use of Barnahus in trafficking cases



Orientations for Achieving Progress



Recommendations



Identifying the potential role of Barnahus in trafficking cases in each country

Make necessary adaptations to extend or enhance Barnahus practice for cases of trafficking

Explore how the development of regional resources might help individual states to enhance their own awareness of, expertise and responses to trafficked children

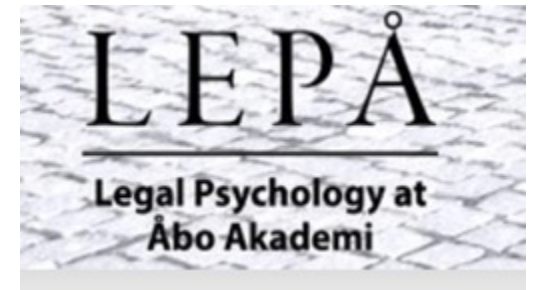
Interviewing children about trafficking

Julia Korkman, Barnahus-project Finland / Helsinki University
Hospital / Åbo Akademi University

Noora Halmeenlaakso, Helsinki Police Department



Barnahus



- Evidence-based interviewing and interviewing protocols
- Adapting the interview to online cases
- Investigating trafficking in children: some central research findings
- Child trafficking cases in Finland
- Adapting the interview to trafficking
- Some reflections of future needs
 - Need for more knowledge (scientific, legal and practical)



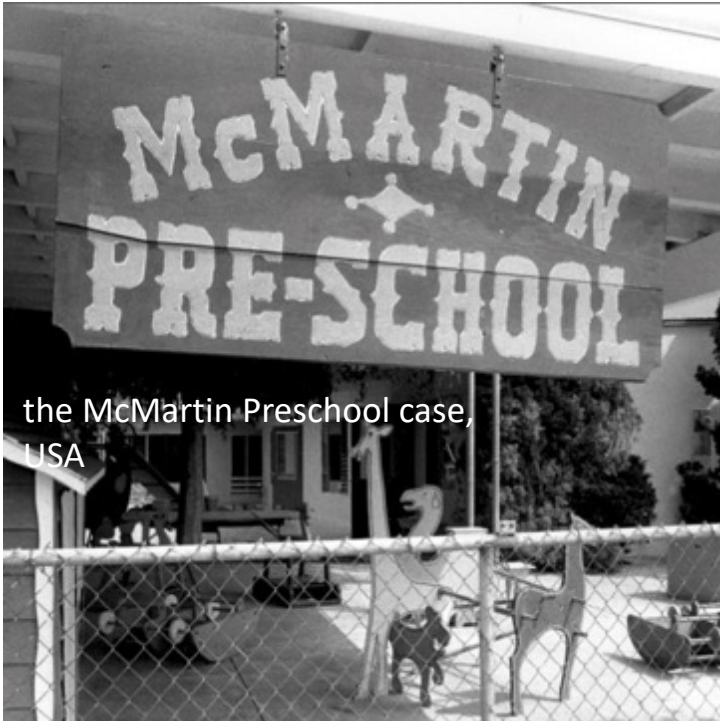
The Kevin case, Sweden

KEVINFALLET

Bröderna som unga. SVT

Bevaka ☆

Rättspsykolog kritisk: Polisens förhör var tortyr



the McMartin Preschool case,
USA

The Outreau case, France



Notorious cases
of bad child
interviewing in
Europe and
elsewhere



The Bjugn case, Norway

**Asilo Rignano. Dal 2007 tra arresti e colpi di
scena ventuno bambini vittime**

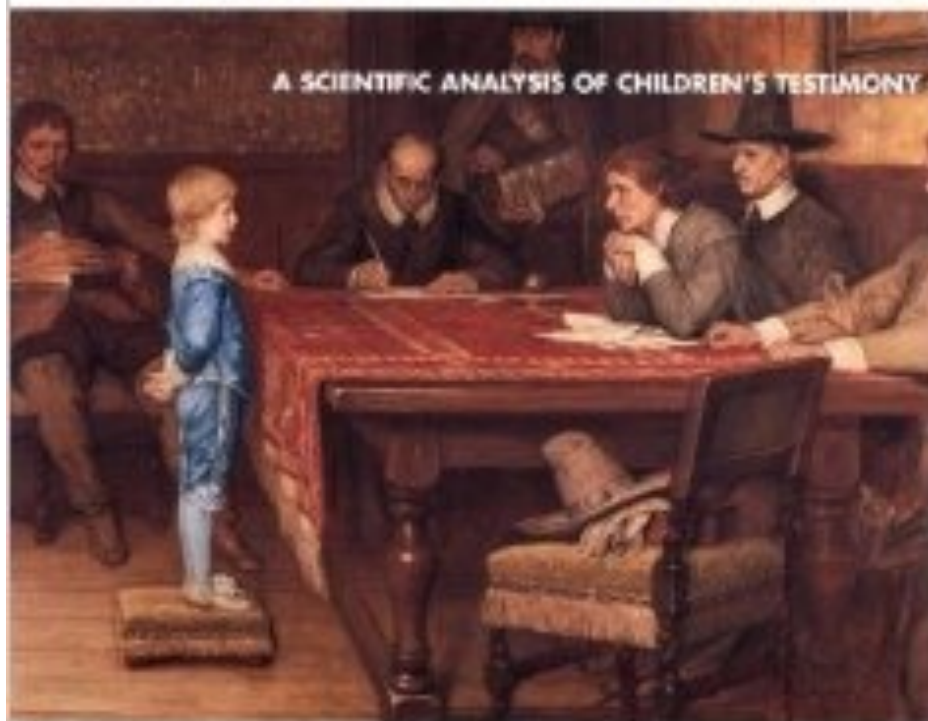


The Rignano case, Italy

Copyrighted Material

Jeopardy *in the* Courtroom

A SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN'S TESTIMONY



Stephen J. Ceci and Maggie Bruck

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APPENDIX

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Protocol: Interview Guide

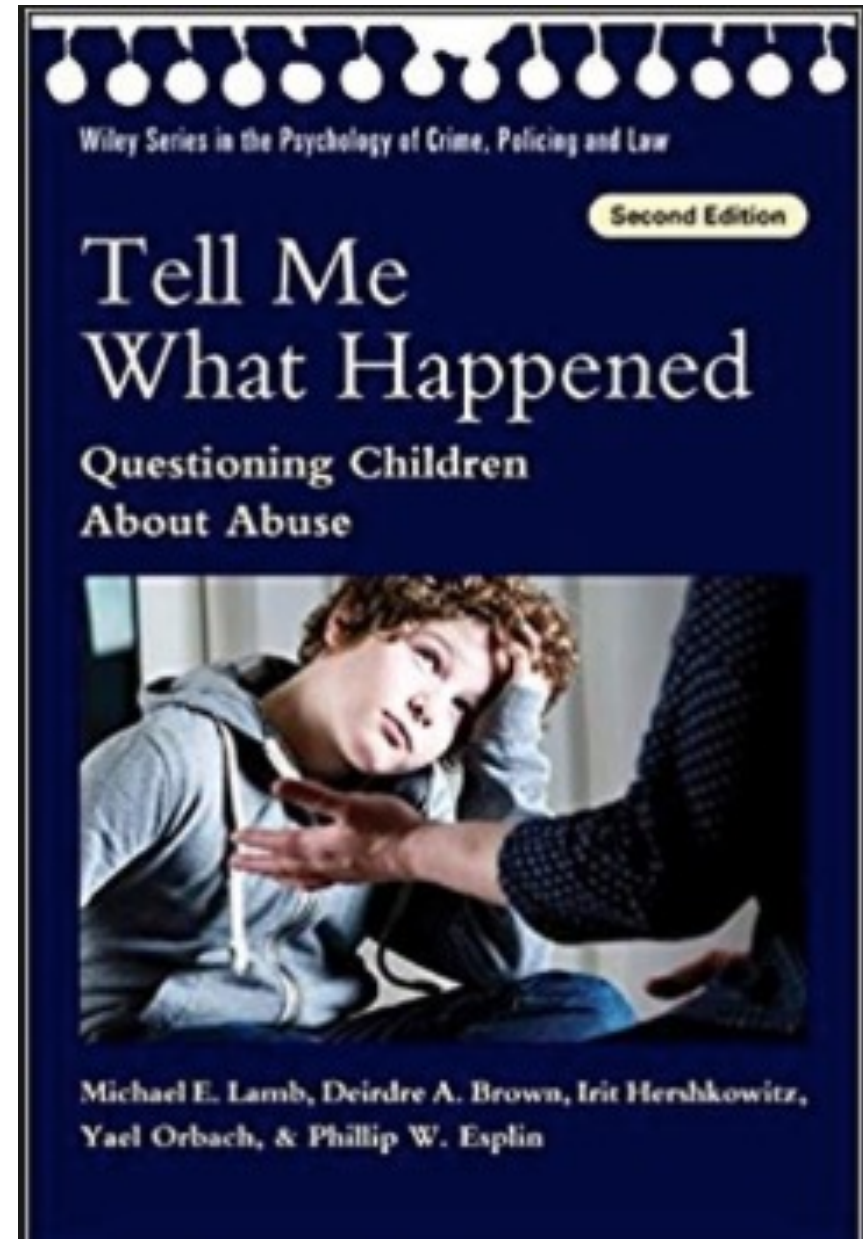
I. INTRODUCTION

1. **'Hello, my name is _____ and I am a police officer.** [Introduce anyone else in the room; ideally, nobody else will be present.]
Today is _____ and it is now _____ o'clock. I am inter-

Professor Michael Lamb et al (2018)
compilation of all relevant NICHD
research



Michael E Lamb



What is required for child interviews to achieve and maintain a high quality?

- Good training, expertise
- Video recording
- Best practice guidelines, interview standards (protocol)
- Feedback
- Continuous supervision and feedback



[Collaborating Against Child Abuse](#) pp 145-164 | [Cite as](#)

Child Forensic Interviewing in Finland: Investigating Suspected Child Abuse at the Forensic Psychology Unit for Children and Adolescents

Authors

[Authors and affiliations](#)

Julia Korkman , Tom Pakkanen, Taina Laajasalo

Open Access | Chapter

First Online: 18 October 2017

9

Citations

3

Mentions

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Abstract

In Finland, specialised university hospital units have been set up to ensure a child-friendly and expert setting for investigating suspected crimes against children. The units conduct investigative interviews especially in cases involving young children or particularly vulnerable child victims, and provide expert assistance when requested by the police. In this chapter we

Download book

Cite chapter

Chapter

Abstract

Preamble

Introduction

The Legal and Theoretical ...

Evidence-Based Child Inte...

Conducting Child Abuse A...

Cases at the Helsinki Unit ...

The Investigative Method ...

Concluding Remarks and ...

References

Copyright information

About this chapter

Adapting the NICHD interview to online cases

(Under preparation. Korkman & Rossi in consultation with e.g., Joleby, Lamb & Hershkowitz)

- Utilizing expertise in online CSE for topics / information and expertise in child interviewing for formulating appropriate questions
 - How to address cases for which there is already strong evidence in a sensitive way
 - Including judicial information that is crucial for online cases
- Follows the best practice guidelines of the NICHD
 - Rapport building
 - Ground rules
 - Practice interview (narrative training)
 - Questions focused around open-ended prompts
 - Closed questions only upon careful consideration and towards the end

See for instance: Joleby et al 2020: Experiences and psychological health among children exposed to online child sexual abuse and Joleby et al 2020: “All of Me Is Completely Different”: Experiences and Consequences Among Victims of Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse.

Investigating (child) trafficking: some central research findings



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1076-8971/19/\$12.00

Psychology, Public Policy, and Law

2019, Vol. 25, No. 4, 225–238
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/law0000205>

Overcoming Disclosure Reluctance in Youth Victims of Sex Trafficking: New Directions for Research, Policy, and Practice

Jennifer Lavoie
University of Cambridge

Kelli L. Dickerson
University of California, Irvine

Allison D. Redlich
George Mason University

Jodi A. Quas
University of California, Irvine

An alarming number of youth worldwide are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, particularly sex trafficking. Normative developmental processes and motivations across the adolescent period—the age when youth are at greatest risk for trafficking—combined with their history, make them highly likely to be reluctant to disclose their exploitation to police, who often encounter victims because they are suspected of delinquency and crime and who interrogate the victims as suspects. Little scientific and policy attention has been devoted to understanding how to question these victims in a way that reduces their disclosure reluctance and increases their provision of legally relevant information. In the current review, we describe research concerning trafficking victims' histories and exploitative experiences, juvenile suspects' and victims' encounters with the legal system, and best-practice forensic interviewing approaches to elicit disclosures from child victims. We highlight the implications of these areas for understanding the dynamics between how police encounter and interact with adolescent trafficking victims and whether and how the victims disclose trafficking details during these interactions. We close with an agenda for research to test interviewing methods for suspected victims of sex trafficking and with policy and practice recommendations for interviewers.

- Victims of sex trafficking may be reluctant to disclose
 - Adolescence as risk age and period
 - May be treated almost as suspects by the police
- Not enough research on interviewing trafficking victims BUT strong evidence for other vulnerable groups:
 1. Use the same basic principle
 2. Test whether useful / adaptable to trafficking cases

Memories of repeated events differ from memories of single events – this needs to be understood and taken into account in the interview



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[Journal TOC](#)

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APA PsycArticles: Journal Article

A meta-analysis of differences in children's reports of single and repeated events.

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Woiwod, D. M., Fitzgerald, R. J., Sheahan, C. L., Price, H. L., & Connolly, D. A. (2019). A meta-analysis of differences in children's reports of single and repeated events. *Law and Human Behavior*, 43(1), 99–116. <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000312>

When children report abuse, they often report that it occurred repeatedly. In most jurisdictions, children will be asked to report each instance of abuse with as many details as possible. In the current meta-analysis, we analyzed data from 31 experiments and 3099 children. When accuracy was defined as the number of correct details from the target instance (i.e., narrow definition), repeated-event children were less accurate than single-event children. However, we argue that defining accuracy as the number of reported details that were experienced across instances (i.e., broad definition) is more appropriate for repeated events. When a broad definition was applied, single- and repeated-event children were similarly accurate. Importantly, repeated-event children were less likely than single-event children to report details that had never been experienced and they were no more likely to say “I don’t know.” Overall, repeated-event children were more suggestible than single-event children, but this was moderated by length of delay to recall. In analyses of recognition data, single-event children’s sensitivity score was higher than repeated-event children’s, with no significant difference in response bias as a function of event frequency. We discuss these results in the context of how children’s memory for repeated events is organized. We also consider the advantages of applying a broad definition of accuracy for victims of repeated abuse.

- Memory for repeated events forms scripts
- Children with repeated experiences more likely to say I don’t know
- When assessing credibility *broadly* (in details reported across instances), similar in accuracy

- Interviews with victims of trafficking in Sweden rely heavily on leading questions
- Victims avoid some crime-related topics such as involvement in sex trade and relations to persons involved in the crime



Adolescent girls exploited in the sex trade: informativeness and evasiveness in investigative interviews

Johanna Lindholm, Ann-Christin Cederborg & Charlotte Alm

“What happened when you came to Sweden?”

Attributing responsibility in police interviews with alleged adolescent human trafficking victims

Johanna Lindholm, Mats Börjesson and Ann-Christin Cederborg
Stockholm University, Sweden

Depicted as someone without agency, with no free will and completely in the hands of the trafficker, the ideal trafficking victim can be seen as diametrically different from the guilty prostitute. By analysing how responsibility and victim-

- The perfect victim role vs an adolescent with some agency
 - in some instances, normalising sexual exploitation

Child trafficking cases in Finland

- The national THB police unit investigates large scale and cross-border cases
 - Domestic cases are investigated as per abuse/exploitation form
- Not all cases are reported to the police
- Not all cases are recognized by the police
 - Cases are handled as sexual abuse, child neglect, assault or unlawful coercion
- Cases with child victims in the national assistance system for victims of human trafficking:
 - Mainly labour exploitation, sexual exploitation and forced marriage
 - The majority of the victims trafficked as children are currently over 18 yrs old

Adapting the interview to trafficking

- The child already knows well why they are being interviewed
 - They have possibly already been interviewed a lot, how does it affect the situation?
- Focus on the everyday rather than a specific event – mindset change!
 - Control vs. freedom of choice
 - Every day activities, friends, routines
 - Nutrition, privacy, hygiene
 - Where do you feel comfortable? Who do you feel comfortable with? What does it mean?
 - Who can you talk with?

Adapting the interview to trafficking, cont.

- Special themes such as online, honour based violence, labour, paraphernalia can be incorporated to the interview(s)
- The aim is to be able to form an understanding of the dependence, control and advantage and harm caused as a whole
- Use the same core principles as in other interviews with vulnerable victims and witnesses, incorporating these central elements

Future needs and actions

- Pressure points for the police
 - Identifying cases
 - Online sexual abuse
 - Training and resources
- Research: both on investigative interviewing methods and quality and on how victims experience the investigative processes
- The Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings
 - Promote detection of THB, improve the standing of victims, enhance criminal liability
 - Implementation 2021-2023

Kiitos! Tack! Thank you!

European association of psychology & law - EAPL: Next conference 2022:
Romania: www.eapl.eu

- Upcoming European guidelines on child interviewing!



Thank You!



Website: childrenatrisk.cbss.org
Twitter: @ChildAtRisk
Facebook: @CBSSpage
Instagram: @cbss_secretariat
LinkedIn: Council of The Baltic Sea States