



When we talk about child trafficking, what do we really mean?

**Here's a quick guide to the key definitions
– because knowing the words helps us
understand the reality of the issue,
and protect children better.**



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**Child trafficking
has one purpose:
exploitation.**

**It happens when
someone uses children
or adolescents for
their own benefit
(financial, sexual,
work, personal
advantage, etc.).**

**It can take
different forms. →**

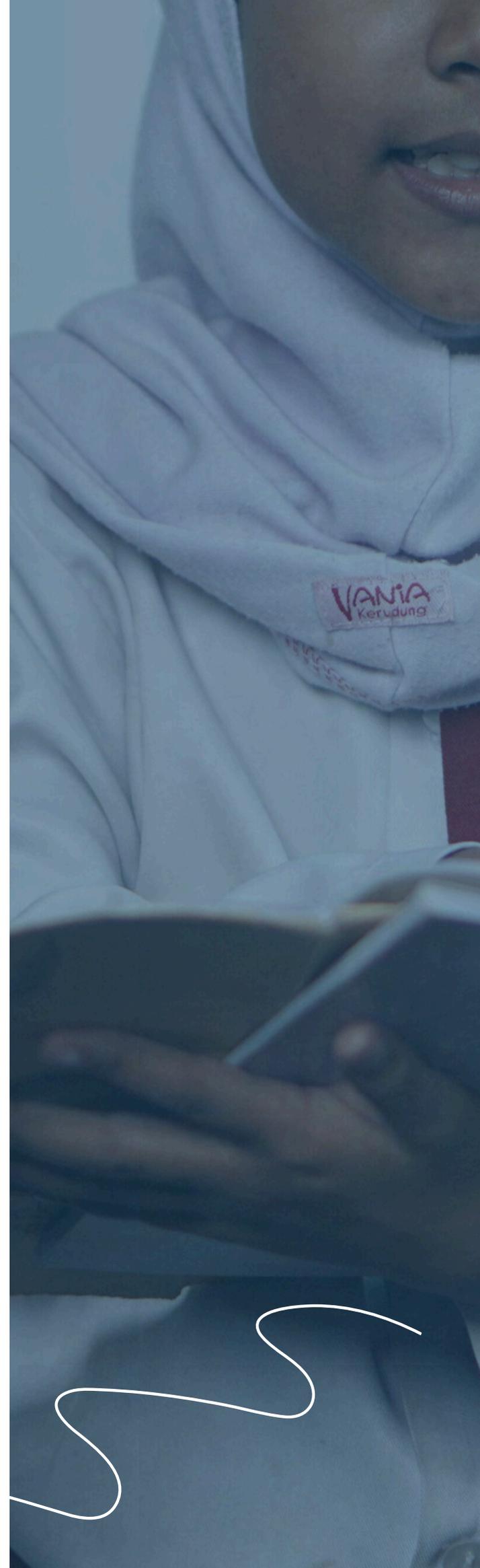
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Sexual exploitation

- This is when someone abuses a child's vulnerability, trust, or dependence for sexual purposes.
- Often, the exploiter gains money, power, or social advantage.

Labour exploitation

- Some children are forced to work without freedom or protection, in conditions that put their health, safety, and development at risk.





Forced begging & criminal exploitation

- Children may be forced to beg or pushed into illegal activities – under pressure from adults, criminal networks, or abusive environments.

Child trafficking can also include:

- forced marriage,
- slavery-like practices,
- exploitation in illegal activities,

What they all have in common:
it is done without their consent.



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Want to explore the bigger picture?
Check official EU data on
“Trafficking in human beings statistics”

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>



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SafeBorders – Strengthening Judicial expertise and Frontline support to combat Child Trafficking

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