



CEBU, PHILIPPINES

THE PROBLEM CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING

Cebu is a tropical tourist destination in the Philippines, known for its beautiful beaches and rugged mountain ranges—but there is a dark side underneath the beauty. IJM first opened an office to help authorities rescue girls from sex trafficking in bars, restaurants and along well-known streets. The government has made strides to combat the crime: One independent study found 79% fewer children being sold for sex in Metro Cebu after four years of IJM's collaborative work. Today, cybersex trafficking of children is on the rise—predators anywhere in the world can search online and pay to direct live sexual abuse of young girls and boys.

IJM CEBU PROGRESS



130+

rescued from
cybersex trafficking
(since 2016)



620+

rescued from sex
trafficking in bars,
brothels and streets
(since 2007)



120+

criminals convicted
for trafficking crimes
(since 2006)



THE FACTS

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



Human trafficking is a massive global enterprise, generating about **\$150 billion a year**—two-thirds from commercial sexual exploitation.²

Worldwide, about **70% of human trafficking victims are women and girls**, and up to 50% are minors.³

¹UN, ²Ibid., ³Walk Free, ILO, and IOM



“I am inspired by the social workers who don’t stop helping survivors like me...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*

How IJM Cebu Combats Cybersex Trafficking

We rescue victims by helping Filipino authorities and international law enforcement agencies to identify and remove children from cybersex trafficking. Pedophiles anywhere in the world can pay to purchase child pornography or direct live sexual abuse.

We bring criminals to justice. We help police investigate and gather evidence so that traffickers and criminals facilitating online sexual exploitation are restrained. We help prosecutors press charges and build strong cases using all available evidence.

We restore survivors by creating individualized care plans for IJM clients. Cybersex trafficking victims can be under 2 years old, and there are more boys than in bar- or street-based trafficking. IJM social workers help place survivors in aftercare homes where they can return to school, take vocational classes, and receive ongoing therapy. In addition to providing direct client care, we are developing best practices and pioneering new tools for shelters handling cybersex trafficking cases.

We strengthen justice systems by providing hands-on mentoring for law enforcement, judges, and partner organizations that provide aftercare for sex trafficking survivors. The Philippines has strong anti-trafficking laws, and we are helping to train authorities on how to implement them against this new crime type.

IJM CEBU MILESTONES

2006

IJM CEBU OPENS

2007

HERSPACE ESTABLISHED

Innovated by IJM, this is a safe place where survivors go for crisis care on the night they are rescued.

2009

FIRST ANTI-TRAFFICKING UNIT

The Philippines' first anti-trafficking unit is established and trained by IJM.

2018

100TH CHILD VICTIM RESCUED FROM CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING



FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR JOHN TANAGHO

John leads IJM's collaborative casework and justice system transformation activities aimed at ending cybersex trafficking in the Philippines. Before coming to IJM, John worked in Chicago as a lawyer. He lives with his family in the Philippines.



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INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

*A pseudonym. Child pictured on cover is not an actual victim; image taken with consent. All text and images © 2019 International Justice Mission