
Van:

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Aan:

Onderwerp: uit een rapport van ECPAT UK

children going missing

ECPAT UK has found that children discovered in cannabis factories are going missing from local authority care while, for example, they are waiting to be age assessed or when they have been either released on bail or from a custodial sentence. While undertaking research for its 2007 report *Missing Out: A Study of Child Trafficking in the North-West, North-East and West Midlands*, ECPAT UK identified two Vietnamese boys, one as young as 13 or 14, who had been reported as trafficked for cannabis factory labour. One of these two children went missing before even registering with Social Services.

In its 2010 Strategic Threat Assessment, CEOP reported that Vietnamese children comprise the largest identified group going missing from local authority care. Of the 42 children identified as missing during the reporting period (March 2009 – February 2010), 28 (67%) were Vietnamese. A number of these children were

rediscovered in cannabis factories.

It is believed that Vietnamese children go missing from care as they feel pressured to return to situations of exploitation in order to pay off debt bonds to their traffickers who threaten both them and their families back home if they fail to do so. These debts are sometimes secured against relatives' land in Vietnam as insurance, further increasing victim complicity.