

# Minors being given growth shots for sex trade: PIL

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NEW DELHI: Giving a bone-chilling account of commercially-run sex-trade rings in the country, an NGO told the [Supreme Court](#) on Friday that criminal gangs entice or kidnap minor girls, forcibly administer hormonal injections to speed up physical growth and then push them into sex trade.

NGO " [Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan](#)", which claimed to have been working in 'red-light areas of UP for last 24 years, cited a central government report to say there were an estimated 30 lakh sex workers in the country and 40 per cent of them were minors. This means 12 lakh minors have been forced into sex trade, it said.

It cited statistics from [National Crime Records Bureau](#) to say that between 2008 and 2010, over 28,000 children were kidnapped while 184,605 children went missing.

Attempting to establish a link between missing children with the trafficked minor girls, the NGO's counsel Aparna Bhat said: "Most of this trafficking is for the purpose of 'commercial sexual exploitation' by organized group of criminals through their brothels run across the country."

A bench of Justice HL Dattu and Justice SA Bobde issued notices to the Centre and States seeking their responses to the NGO's plea for framing a standard operating procedure across the country for the law enforcing agencies to rescue exploited minor girls living in horrible conditions in the brothels.

But, what came as most inhuman act was the allegation that the criminal gangs force hormonal injections on the minor girls to speed up their growth. Drawing court's attention to the emerging trend, the NGO said: "The brothel-keepers feed and groom up the children till they are ready for 'business' at the age of 10-13 years."

"These minor girls living in brothels are made to grow forcefully with the help of hormonal injections/tablets from their first entry into the area. This affects the age verification test of the victim even if she is rescued from the brothel," the NGO said.

From the experiences gained by working among sex workers for more than two decades, the NGO said most brothels have in-built tunnels and hidden rooms, which were used to hide trafficked minor girls during raids by police or NGOs.

It requested the SC to direct the authorities to physically verify each brothel for any such secret chamber or tunnel and demolish them as and when these were discovered.

The NGO said it has so far rescued 153 minors from brothels in UP, Bihar, Karnataka, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan between 2005 and 2012. It said it was pursuing cases against 812 persons facing human trafficking charges.