



This reading list was compiled by staff at the Safer Young Lives Research Centre at the University of Bedfordshire. The list includes materials we have found helpful in thinking about participation rights for children and young people who have experienced sexual violence.

Journal articles and book chapters

Aussems, K., Muntingaa, M., Addink, A. and Dedding, C. (2020) “Call us by our name”: Quality of care and wellbeing from the perspective of girls in residential care facilities who are commercially and sexually exploited by “loverboys”. *Children and Youth Services Review*. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105213.

Barnert, E., Kelly, M., Godoy, S., Abrams, L., Bath, E. (2020) Behavioural health treatment “Buy-in” among adolescent females with histories of commercial sexual exploitation. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104042.

Batsleer, J. (2011) Voices from an edge. Unsettling the practices of youth voice and participation: arts-based practice in The Blue Room, Manchester. *Pedagogy, Culture and Society*, 19(3), pp.419–434.

Beazley, H., Bessell, S., Ennew, J., and Waterson, R. The right to be properly researched: research with children in a messy, real world, *Children's Geographies*, 7(4), pp. 365 — 378. DOI: 10.1080/14733280903234428

Beckett, H. (2019) ‘Moving beyond discourses of agency, gain and blame: reconceptualising young people’s experiences of sexual exploitation’, in Pearce, J. (ed.) *Child sexual exploitation: why theory matters*. Bristol: Policy Press, pp.23–43.

Beckett, H. and Warrington, C. (2024). ‘Do no harm’? Rethinking risk and harm narratives in abuse-focused research with children. *Child Protection and Practice*, 2, p.100037.

Bessa, T. (2019) Informed powerlessness: child marriage interventions and Third World girlhood discourses, *Third World Quarterly*, 40 (11), pp.1941–1956, doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2019.1626229.

Bhattacharjee, L., and Veitch, H. J. (2020). Strengthening (Re) integration from Child Sexual Exploitation: Children and Young People's Recommendations. *Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond*, 7(2), 183-190.

Bordonaro, L. I., and Payne, R. (2012) Ambiguous agency: Critical perspectives on social interventions with children and youth in Africa, *Children's Geographies*, 10(4), pp. 365–372, doi:10.1080/14733285.2012.726065.

Borg, K., Snowdon, C. and Hodes, D. (2019) 'A resilience-based approach to the recognition and response of child sexual abuse', *Paediatrics and Child Health*, 29(1), pp. 6–14. doi: 10.1016/j.paed.2018.11.006.

Bovarnick, S. with D'Arcy, K. (2018) 'Let's talk about sexual violence: Involving young people in preventative peer education' in Beckett, H. and Pearce, J. (eds.) *Understanding and Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation*. London: Routledge

Bovarnick, S and Cody, C. (2021) Putting risk into perspective: Lessons for children and youth services from a participatory advocacy project with survivors of sexual violence in Albania, Moldova and Serbia. *Children and Youth Services Review*. doi.org/10.1016/j.chidyouth.2021.106003.

Brown, K. (2004a) *Paying the price: a consultation paper on prostitution: response from the national youth campaign on sexual exploitation*. Available at: http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/paying_the_price.pdf.

Brown, K. (2006) Participation and young people involved in prostitution. *Child Abuse Review*, 15(5), pp.294–312.

Brown, K. (2019) 'Vulnerability and child sexual exploitation: towards an approach grounded in life experiences', *Critical Social Policy*, 39(4), pp.622–642.

Buck, G., Lawrence, A. and Ragonese, E. (2017) Exploring peer mentoring as a form of innovative practice with young people at risk of child sexual exploitation, *British Journal of Social Work*, 47, pp.1745-1763.

Bulanda, J. and Johnson, T. B. (2016) 'A trauma-informed model for empowerment programs targeting vulnerable youth', *Child Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 33, pp.303-312.

Buller, A. and Schulte, M. (2018) Aligning human rights and social norms for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, *Reproductive Health Matters*, 26 (52), doi:10.1080/09688080.2018.1542914.

Cody, C. (2017) 'We have personal experience to share, it makes it real': Young people's views on their role in sexual violence prevention efforts. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 79, pp.221–227.

Cody, C and D'Arcy, K. (2017) Involving young people affected by sexual violence in efforts to prevent sexual violence in Europe: what is required? *Child Care in Practice*, 25(2), pp.200-214.

Cody, C., Bovarnick, S., Peace, D., & Warrington, C. (2022) 'Keeping the informal safe': Strategies for developing peer support initiatives for young people who have experienced sexual violence. *Children & Society*, 36(5), Article e12555. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12555>

Cody, C., Bovarnick, S., & Peace, D. (2022) It's like a much deeper understanding and

you kind of believe them more ...': The value of peer support for young people affected by sexual violence. *Child Abuse Review*, 32(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2789>

Cody, C., Bovarnick, S. and Soares, C. (2024) Realising participation and protection rights when working with groups of young survivors of childhood sexual violence: A decade of learning. *Child Protection and Practice*, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2950193824000184>

Collins, T.M., Rizzini, I. and Mayhew, A., 2021. Fostering global dialogue: Conceptualisations of children's rights to participation and protection. *Children & Society*, 35(2), pp.295-310.

Collins, T. (2017) A child's right to participate: Implications for international child protection, *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 21(1), pp. 14-46, doi:10.1080/13642987.2016.1248122.

Coy, M. (2009) 'Moved around like bags of rubbish nobody wants': How multiple placement moves can make young women vulnerable to sexual exploitation. *Child Abuse Review*, 18, pp.254-266.

Cullen, O. et al. (2023) 'Integrating the Voices of Youth with Lived Experience as Co-researchers to Improve Research and Practice Approaches to Childhood Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence', *Journal of Family Violence*, 38(6), pp. 1111–1125. doi:10.1007/s10896-023-00558-y.

Daley, K (2015). 'The wrongs of protection: Balancing protection and participation in research with marginalised children and young people'. *Journal of Sociology*. 51(2): 121-138.

Ensor, M. and Reinke, A. (2014) African children's rights to participate in their own protection, *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 22 (1), pp, 68–92. doi:10.1163/15718182-02201003.

Factor, F. and Ackerley, E. (2019) Young people and police making "Marginal Gains": climbing fells, building relationships and changing police safeguarding practice. *Journal of Children's Services*, (14:3), pp.217-227.

Fisher, P., Balfour, B. and Moss, S. (2018) 'Advocating co-productive engagement with marginalised people: a specific perspective on and by survivors of childhood sexual abuse', *British Journal of Social Work*, 48, pp.2096–2113.

Garcia-Quiroga, M. and Salvo Agoglia, I. (2020) Too Vulnerable to Participate? Challenges for Meaningful Participation in Research With Children in Alternative Care and Adoption. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, Volume 19: 1–11, DOI: 10.1177/1609406920958965

Gibbs, D. A. et al. (2015) 'Services to domestic minor victims of sex trafficking: Opportunities for engagement and support', *Children and Youth Services Review*, 54, pp. 1–7. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2015.04.003.

Gilligan, R., Holt, S., Brady, E. and Caffrey, L., 2025. Safety and beyond? Exploring children's priorities for their participation in the child protection and welfare process. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, p.107614.

Godoy, S.M. et al. (2022) 'A roadmap to enhancing community based participatory research strategies and collaborative efforts with populations impacted by commercial sexual exploitation', *Children & Youth Services Review*, 136, p. N.PAG. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106427.

Hallett, S. (2016) 'An uncomfortable comfortableness': 'care', child protection and child sexual exploitation', *The British Journal of Social Work*, 46(7), pp.2137–2152.

Hamilton, C., Rodgers, A., Howard, K. and Warrington, C. (2019) From the ground up: young research advisors' perspectives on relationships between participation and protection. *Journal of Children's Services*, 14(3), pp.228–234.

Hart, J. (2008) Children's participation and international development, *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 16 (3), pp. 407–418, doi:10.1163/157181808X311231.

Hickle, K. and Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2014) Putting the pieces back together: a group intervention for sexually exploited adolescent girls. *Social Work with Groups*, 37(2), pp.99–113.

Hickle, K. and Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2017) 'Group work with survivors of sex trafficking', in Grief, G. L. and Knight, C. (eds.) *Group work with populations at risk*. 4th edn. New York: Oxford University Press, pp.313–328.

Hickle, K. (2019) 'Understanding trauma and its relevance to child sexual exploitation', in Pearce, J. (ed.) *Child sexual exploitation: why theory matters*. Bristol: Policy Press, pp.151–173.

Hickle, K. (2020) Introducing a trauma-informed capability approach in youth services, *Children and Society*, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12388>.

Horwath, J., Kalyva, E. and Spyru, S. (2012) "I want my experiences to make a difference": promoting participation in policy-making and service development by young people who have experienced violence', *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34(1), pp.155–162.

Houghton, C. (2015) 'Young people's perspectives on participatory ethics: Agency, power and impact in domestic abuse research and policy-making', *Child Abuse Review*, 24, pp.235–248.

Johnson, L., Sapiro, B., Buttner, C. and Postmus, J. (2018) Ambiguous agency as a diagnostic of power: Efforts of child welfare providers to promote responsible agency among youth involved in sex trades. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma*, 27(6), pp. 577–597, doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2018.1468375.

Konya, J. et al. (2025) 'Peer-led groups for survivors of sexual abuse and assault: a systematic review', *Journal of Mental Health*, 34(2), pp. 128–140. doi:10.1080/09638237.2020.1770206.

Kosher, H. and Ben-Arieh, A. (2020) Children's participation: A new role for children in the field of child maltreatment. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104429.

Kostelny, K. Wessells, M. and Ondoro, K. (2020) Enabling full participation: A community-led approach to child protection in N. Balvin, N. and Christie, D. J. (eds.), *Children and Peace*, Peace Psychology Book Series, doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-22176-8_18

Križ, K. and Roundtree-Swain, D. (2017) "We are merchandise on a conveyer belt": How young adults in the public child protection system perceive their participation in decisions about their care, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 78, pp. 32–40.

- Lansdown, G. (2020) Strengthening child agency to prevent and overcome maltreatment. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104398.
- Lefevre, M., Hickie, K. and Luckock, B. (2019) 'Both/and' not 'either/or': Reconciling rights to protection and participation in working with child sexual exploitation. *British Journal of Social Work*, 49, pp.1837–1855.
- Levy, L. (2012) 'Hidden nobodies: female youth in care participate in an arts-based trauma informed empowerment intervention program', *Relational Child and Youth Care Practice*, 25(1), pp.5–19.
- McMellon, C. and Tisdall, K. (2020) Children and young people's participation rights: Looking backwards and moving forwards, *International Journal of Children's Rights* 28, pp. 157-182, doi:10.1163/15718182-02801002.
- Mckay, S., Veale, A., Worthen, M. and Wessells, M. (2011) Building meaningful participation in reintegration among war-affected young mothers in Liberia, Sierra Leone and northern Uganda, *Intervention*, 9 (2), pp. 108 – 124.
- McKibbin, G. and Humphreys, C. (2019) 'The Perceptions of Australian Workers about Caring for Sexually Exploited Children in Residential Care', *Child Abuse Review*, 28(6), pp. 418–430.
- Mitchell, M., Lundy, L., & Hill, L. (2023). Children's human rights to 'participation' and 'protection': Rethinking the relationship using barnahus as a case example. *Child Abuse Review*, 32, Article e2820. <https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2820>
- Pearce, J.J. (2009) *Young people and sexual exploitation: It isn't hidden, you just aren't looking*. London: Routledge Falmer.
- Pearce, J.J. (2010) Children's participation in policy and practice to prevent child sexual abuse – developing empowering interventions in *Protecting children from sexual violence: A comprehensive approach*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe, pp.75-85.
- Pincock, K. (2018) School, sexuality and problematic girlhoods: reframing 'empowerment' discourse, *Third World Quarterly*, 39 (5), pp. 906–919, doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2017.1415141
- Rabe, J., Jobson, C. and Cairns, L.O. (2025) 'The Balancing Act: Reflections From Three Projects on Negotiating Participation and Protection in Doing Research With Children and Young People on Violence and Abuse', *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF QUALITATIVE METHODS*, 24. doi:10.1177/16094069251323626.
- Ritterbusch, A. et al (2020) Pushing the Limits of Child Participation in Research: Reflections from a Youth-Driven Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Initiative in Uganda. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*. Volume 19: 1–12. DOI: 10.1177/1609406920958962
- Rothman, E. F., Preisa, S. R., Bright, K., Paruk, J., Bair-Merritta, M. and Farrell, A. (2020) A longitudinal evaluation of a survivor-mentor program for child survivors of sex trafficking in the United States, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 100, Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213419302601>.
- Ruiz-Casares, M., Collins, T.M., Tisdall, E.K.M and Grover, S. (2017) Children's rights to participation and protection in international development and humanitarian interventions: nurturing a dialogue, *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 21:1,1-13, DOI: 10.1080/13642987.2016.1262520

Sahl, S. and Knoepke, C. (2018) Using shared decision making to empower sexually exploited youth, *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. doi: 10.1016/j.jaac.2018.07.873.

Sapiro, B., Johnson, L., Postmus, J.L., and Simmel, C. (2016) Supporting youth involved in domestic minor sex trafficking: Divergent perspectives on youth agency. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. doi:10.1177/088610990001500402.

Sapiro, B. (2020) Assessing trustworthiness: Marginalized youth and the central relational paradox in treatment. *Children and Youth Services Review*. doi: 10.1016/j.chidyouth.2020.105178.

Small Steps Collaboration. (2022) The evidence speaks for itself: Findings from the 'Small steps can make a big difference' youth-led action research project into young people's perspectives on seeking justice and support in relation to child trafficking in Albania. Tirana: Different & Equal.

Strauss Swanson, C. and Szymanski, D.M. (2020) From pain to power: An exploration of activism, the #MeToo movement, and healing from sexual assault trauma. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*: doi.org/10.1037/cou0000429.

Tisdall, E.K.M (2017) Conceptualising children and young people's participation: examining vulnerability, social accountability and co-production, *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 21:1, pp. 59-75, doi:10.1080/13642987.2016.1248125.

Tisdall, E.K.M. and Cuevas-Parra, P. (2019) Challenges for children's participation: child activism for ending child marriage, *Children and Youth Services Review*, doi:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2019.104568

Unwin, P. and Jones, A. (2021) "Educate, Empower and Inspire": An Evaluation of a Preventative Service for Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation'. *Child Abuse Review*, 30(1), p. 62. doi: 10.1002/car.2669.

Usubillaga, J. et al. (2024) 'Doing with or doing to? A realist case study of factors affecting the implementation of guidance on child sexual exploitation in Wales', *Children and Youth Services Review*, 166, pp. 1–11. doi:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2024.107964.

Warrington, C. and Brodie, I. (2018) Developing participatory practice and culture in CSE services in Beckett, H. and Pearce, J. (eds.) *Understanding and responding to child sexual exploitation*. London: Routledge, pp.121-134.

Warrington, C. and Larkins, C. (2019) Children at the centre of safety: challenging the false juxtaposition of protection and participation. *Journal of Children's Services*, 14(3), pp.133-142.

Warrington, C., Benchekroun, R., Millar, H., Bradley, L., Elizabeth, M., Hamilton, C., Howard, K., Poingdestre, E., Walker, K., & Whittington, E. (2024) Participation for protection: new perspectives on valuing young people's involvement in research addressing sexual violence. *Childhood: Special Issue Deepening collaborative research: relations of production, contexts and meaning-making*.

Wessells, M. and Kostelny, K. (2021) Understanding and ending violence against children: A holistic approach. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 27(1), 3–23, doi.org/10.1037/pac0000475.

Reports

Beckett, H. and Warrington, C. (2015) *Making justice work: experiences of criminal justice for children and young people affected by sexual exploitation as victims and witnesses*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire.

Bovarnick, S. with Peace, D., Warrington, C. and Pearce, J. (2018) *Being Heard: Promoting children and young people's involvement in participatory research on sexual violence: Findings from an international scoping review*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire.

Bovarnick, S. and Cody, C. (2020) *'They need to see the people they are affecting by their decision-making': Developing participatory advocacy with young people on sexual violence in Albania, Moldova and Serbia*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire.

Brodie, I. with D'Arcy, K., Harris, J., Roker, D., Shuker, L., and Pearce, J. (2016) *The participation of young people in child sexual exploitation services: A scoping review of the literature*. Available at: <https://www.beds.ac.uk/media/86432/alexi-project-participation-scoping-review.pdf>.

Cody, C. (2015) *'They don't talk about it enough' Report on the 2014 consultations with Youth Advisors for 'Our Voices'*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire.

Cody, C. (2015) *Young people affected by sexual violence as change makers in prevention efforts: What are the opportunities and what are the risks (Conference summary report)*. Windsor: Cumberland Lodge.

Cody, C. (2017) *Connecting the dots: Supporting the Recovery and Reintegration of Children Affected by Sexual Exploitation*. Bangkok: ECPAT International.

Cody, C., Bovarnick, S. and Peace, D. (2020) *Peer support for young people who have experienced sexual violence - the value*: Briefing paper three. Luton: University of Bedfordshire.

DuBois, D. and Felner, J. (2016) *Mentoring for youth with backgrounds of involvement in commercial sexual activity*. National Mentoring Resource Center.

Feinstein, C. and O'Kane, C. (2008) *Children's and adolescent's participation and protection from sexual abuse and exploitation*. Innocenti Working Paper 2009-09, Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

Hagell, A. (2013) *AYPH Be Healthy Project Evaluation*. London: AYPH.

Hart, R., Ataman, A. and Kimiagar, B. (2016) *Thematic Report: Placing children's voices at the heart of organisations that service them. Lessons from governance with children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation*. Bangkok: ECPAT International, Children's Environment Research Group.

Iman, J., Fullwood, C., Paz, N., W, D. and Hassan, S. (2006) *Girls do what they have to do to survive. Illuminating methods used by girls in the sex trade and street economy to fight back and survive*. Chicago: Young Women's Empowerment Project.

Johnson, V., Lewin, T. and Cannon, M. (2020) *Learning from a living archive: Rejuvenating child and youth rights and participation*, REJUVENATE working paper 1, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, doi:10.19088/REJUVENATE.2020.001.

Moore, T. (2017) Protection through participation: Involving children in child-safe organisations. Australian Institute of Family Studies. Available at: <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/protection-through-participation>.

Schaffner, L., Buhr, G., Lewis, D., Roc, M. and Volpintesta, H. (2016) *Experiences of Youth in the Sex Trade in Chicago: Issues in Youth Poverty and Homelessness*. U.S. Department of Justice.

Strømmland, M., Bahus, M.K. and Andersen, A.J., 2022. Too vulnerable to participate? A systematic literature review of the gap between a right to participate and participation, in welfare services. *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, 14(1), pp.331-351.

Taylor-Browne, J. (2002) *More than one chance! young people involved in prostitution speak out*, London: ECPAT. Available at: http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/more_than_one_chance.pdf. (Accessed: 22 July 2014).

Taylor- Browne, J., Broadfoot, F., Broadhead, L. Downie, A. and McKetty-Campbell, M (2002) *Voicing our views*. London: ECPAT UK. Available at: http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/voicing_our_views.pdf. (Accessed: 22 July 2014).

Warrington, C. (2016) *Young person-centred approaches in child sexual exploitation (CSE) – promoting participation and building self-efficacy*. Devon: Research in Practice.

Warrington, C. (2018) *Children and young people's participation in research to address sexual violence: Ethical working paper*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire.

Warrington, C., Ackerley, E., Beckett, H. and Walker, M. (2017) *Making noise: children's voices for positive change after sexual abuse*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire/ Office of Children's Commissioner.

Warrington, C. (2020) *Creating a safe space: Ideas for the development of participatory group work to address sexual violence with young people*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire.

Willow, C. (2021) *Discussion paper: United they stand: Moving beyond the participation-protection divide*. Save the Children.

Woodman, E., Roche, S., & McArthur, M. (2022). Children's participation in child protection—how do practitioners understand children's participation in practice? *Child and Family Social Work*, 28, 125–135.

Resources related to 'doing research'

ECPAT International (2019) *Guidelines for ethical research on sexual exploitation involving children*. Bangkok: ECPAT International.

Jamieson, L., Dulieu., N., Kapell. A. and Feinstein, C. (2021) *Working together: Including children in research on violence against children: A Resource Pack for Research Practitioners*. Edinburgh: End Violence Partnership Knowledge Network, End Violence Lab and Save the Children.

Melrose, M. (2010) Labour pains: Some considerations on the difficulties of researching juvenile prostitution. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 5(4) Issue 4, pp. 333-351.

Pearce (ed) (2019) *Child Sexual Exploitation: Why Theory Matters* Bristol, Policy Press

Visual resources

Cody, C. and Soares, C. (2023) [Seeing things from both sides: A comic to help young people and professionals understand each other's views about young survivors' participation in efforts to address child sexual abuse and exploitation](#). Luton: Safer Young Lives Research Centre, University of Bedfordshire.

CSE Principles Comic Project (2017) *CSE principles comic project*. Available at <https://www.alexiproject.org.uk/participation/cse-principles-comics>. (Accessed: 13 July 2019).

Our Young Researchers' Advisory Panel (YRAP) Participation is Protective [infographic](#)

Broader participation resources

Abede, T. (2019) Reconceptualising children's agency as continuum and interdependence. *Social Sciences*, 8, 81, doi:10.3390/socsci8030081.

Lundy, L. (2007) 'Voice' is not enough: conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. *British Educational Research Journal*, 33(6), 927-942.