

# Challenging childhoods

Citation for published version (APA):

Mercera, G. E. (2025). *Challenging childhoods: childhood adversity and its path to sexual exploitation*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20250212gm>

## Document status and date:

Published: 12/02/2025

## DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20250212gm](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20250212gm)

## Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

## Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

## General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

[www.umlib.nl/taverne-license](http://www.umlib.nl/taverne-license)

## Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

[repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

Stellingen behorende bij dit proefschrift

### **Challenging Childhoods**

Childhood adversity and its path to sexual exploitation

Gabriëlle Mercera

1. Eén risicoprofiel voor seksuele uitbuiting bestaat niet (dit proefschrift).
2. Het kennen van het levensverhaal van een jongere is essentieel voor bijdrage aan herstel (dit proefschrift).
3. Boys ~~don't~~ do cry (dit proefschrift).
4. Trauma-informed care moet een standaard onderdeel zijn van hulpverlening aan (potentiële) slachtoffers van seksuele uitbuiting (dit proefschrift).
5. De geschiedenis die je met je familie deelt, begint al ver voordat je geboren bent.
6. Safety is not the absence of threat, it is the presence of connection. – *Gabor Maté*
7. Het taboe rondom mentale gezondheid onder jongeren vormt soms een grotere barrière voor herstel dan de beschikbaarheid van hulpverlening.
8. Echte inclusie betekent dat jongeren functionerend op het niveau van een licht verstandelijke beperking niet hoeven te 'passen' in het systeem.
9. Uitbuiting is overal – bewustwording begint bij iedereen.