

Combating the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

Achievements and challenges



We protect
children from
sex tourism.



Theo Noten

Geneva, 6 March 2013

ECPAT in 75 countries



Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism



Definition

Sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children.

Child sex offenders can be domestic travelers or they can be international tourists.

Child sex tourism often involves the use of accommodation, transportation and other tourism-related services that facilitate contact with children and enable the perpetrator to remain fairly inconspicuous in the surrounding population and environment.

Figures

It is difficult to obtain accurate figures regarding the number of child victims or the number of child sex tourists: It is illegal, hidden and involved criminal groups and regarded as a taboo in many states which deny or downplay its existence. It is also unreported and “under prosecuted”.

World Congress against sexual exploitation of children



2008 Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action

- States should alert travelers to criminal sanctions that are applicable in cases of sexual exploitation of children and enhance prosecution of offenders
- States should prohibit the production and dissemination of material advertising the sexual exploitation of children in tourism
- Tourism, travel and hotel sectors should adopt the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* and develop CSR strategies addressing child sex tourism





Legal reforms

Australia, Cambodia, France, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Ukraine, UK and USA have developed strong legal frameworks to combat CST (extraterritorial legislation as well as laws prohibiting preparatory offenses and the organization and promotion of child sex tours). However, the effective implementation of those legal frameworks remains a challenge in many countries.

Prosecutions of offenders

Even though the number of child sex tourists/travelers arrested and prosecuted has increased over the past years in the countries where they have committed sexual crimes against Children (e.g. [Cambodia](#), [Colombia](#), [India](#), [Philippines](#), [Senegal](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Thailand](#)) or in their country of origin (e.g. [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [France](#), [Netherlands](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)) many of them are still released on bail and manage to escape prosecution/conviction in “destination countries”. In addition extraterritorial laws lack effective implementation in many countries.



Awareness raising

Awareness raising campaigns aimed at informing the public about the issue and potential offenders about **applicable sanctions in destination countries** and in their country of origin have been successfully conducted by ECPAT member organizations since 2000.

E.g. Australia, Austria, France, Canada, Cambodia, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.

Special measures have been developed for **mega sport events**: e.g. Germany(2006) and **South Africa World Cup (2010)**, **Ukraine/Poland Euro 2012** and the **Olympic games in the UK (2012)** as well as the upcoming **World Cup and Olympic games to be held in Brazil in 2014**



The Code

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

started in 1998 by ECPAT and tour operators in Sweden



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The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

- The Code is an industry-driven, multi-stakeholder initiative with a mission to provide tools and support to the industry;
- Majority in Code executive board tourism industry representatives
- 1,278 signatories in over 40 countries;
- International secretariat in Bangkok, local code representatives in over 40 countries
- The Code helps tourism companies integrate child protection into their daily operations through the implementation of six criteria.



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The Tourism Child Protection Code

1. Corporate policy against sexual exploitation of children
2. Education and training of personnel
3. Introduction of a clause in contracts with suppliers
4. Providing information to travelers
5. Engaging with local stakeholders at destinations
6. Annual reporting on the implementation of these criteria

It is EVERYONE's responsibility to protect children from such crimes of abuse and exploitation

Child Protection is Part of Responsible Tourism



Roles of Tourism Professionals in Child Protection

1



SAY: *child sexual exploitation is not acceptable in tourism*

2



DO: *raise awareness and conduct trainings*

3



ACT: *report cases to authorities*

Code awareness Materials










CHILD SEX TOURISM IS A CRIME

CHILDREN NEED OUR PROTECTION
To report child sexual exploitation: protect@ecpat.net

By implementing the framework of Accor's Sustainable Development Policy, our hotels contribute to the fight against child sex tourism alongside ECPAT International and its network.

We make our commitment official by being a member of the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism", and implementing its criteria to protect children.

การท่องเที่ยวเพื่อมีเพศสัมพันธ์กับเด็กเป็นอาชญากรรม

"เด็กๆต้องการการคุ้มครอง"
รายงานเหตุการณ์การล่วงละเมิดทางเพศต่อเด็กไปรษณีย์ protect@ecpat.net

ภายใต้กรอบนโยบายการพัฒนาอันยั่งยืนของแอสคอร์ โฮเทลกรุ๊ป เราร่วมกับ เอ็คแพท อินเตอร์เนชันแนล ในการต่อสู้กับการแสวงหาผลประโยชน์ทางเพศจากเด็ก

เราประกาศเจตนารมณ์อย่างเป็นทางการ โดยการเข้าร่วมเป็นสมาชิกของ "หลักการปฏิบัติที่เชื่อมโยงองค์ความรู้จากภาคการดูแลสุขภาพระหว่างประเทศในการเดินทางและการท่องเที่ยว" และปฏิบัติตามรายละเอียดที่ระบุไว้ในหลักการปฏิบัติที่เชื่อมโยงองค์ความรู้

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ECPAT International: <http://www.ecpat.net>

SOFITEL pullman Grand Mercure NOVOTEL
mercure allseasons ibis HOTEL FORMULAS





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TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY AND HELP US PROTECT CHILDREN

Ramada Encore is proud to support The Code and ECPAT in protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. Please note that child sex tourism is a crime.

As our valued guest, if you should see suspicious activities or have concerns, please contact hotel management at your convenience or if you are traveling throughout Thailand, please report via anonymous e-hotline: protect@ecpat.net

Under Thai and international laws,
engaging in sex services with anyone under the age of 18 is a crime - The child's consent is irrelevant.



I am a responsible traveler.

I deserve to know.

Achievements & Challenges



We protect children from sex tourism.

Achievements

- Well equipped and highly motivated staff
- Positive influence in area of operation
- Winner of several international prizes

Challenges

- Limited progress in supply chain
- Limited engagement of local stakeholders
- Need for improvement in monitoring



MULTI-AWARD WINNING



Recent Code signatory

On 14th January 2013 ECPAT Cambodia has signed an agreement with Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel to implement the code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation. Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra has become the first member of the code in Cambodia. ECPAT Cambodia encourages other hotels to follow Sofitel to ensure that children are protected from sexual exploitation.



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Recommendations

- Tourist receiving and tourist sending countries should have adequate legislation and law enforcement to combat sexual exploitation of children
- When developing tourism states should require companies to address child protection, especially from sexual exploitation
- Tourist receiving and tourist sending countries should require tourism companies operating in their territory to include child protection in their business principles
- Tourist receiving and tourist sending countries to promote tourism companies operating in their territory to participate in the Tourism Child Protection Code or similar mechanisms
- UNWTO should include child protection issues and prevention of sexual exploitation in Poverty Reduction Strategies promoting tourism development