



ECPAT: A Network For Children



Many people have contributed to this booklet which continues the ECPAT Story, the original record of the network written by Ron O'Grady in 1996. To all of them - to the many ECPAT funders, friends, partners and workers around the world, to the staff in the ECPAT International Secretariat who have given so generously of their time and talents, to my family for their support and encouragement, to all who have contributed in whatever measure over the years, my gratitude and appreciation.

Jo de Linde, Editor

ECPAT International is a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights, free and secure from all forms of exploitation.

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ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes)

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Introduction

There would be no need for ECPAT if children were not being sexually abused and exploited for profit. The growth in our work and geographic spread, while being a success story, is at the same time an unwelcome testimony to the increase in the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

It was the early ECPAT campaigns that first revealed what children were suffering as a result of the development of mass tourism. As more information came to light, it became tragically clear that the commercial sexual exploitation of children encompasses a wide range of abusers, several different forms of abuse and a web of deep-rooted causes that go beyond simple analysis and easy answers. Confronted by this unexpected situation, ECPAT decided the way forward was to broaden and intensify the struggle to end the evil.

This short guide traces the development and progress of ECPAT since its modest beginnings in 1990. Twelve years later, there are more than 60 groups around the world, a skilled and dedicated staff in Bangkok, and a Board of 8 members representing all continents. What has been achieved is the result of successful partnerships forged by working together in the service of children. When governments work with non-governmental organisations, when the private sector provides support, when legislators and law-enforcers concentrate their efforts on protecting children, real and lasting improvements are made to children's lives; hope is rekindled that future generations will be able to grow up free from the threat of abuse and exploitation.

So more than the record of the growth and development of an organisation, this is the story of people of all ages and from every continent who have been working, and continue to work for and with children, against all the odds, often with few resources, but strong in their belief that this terrible injustice to childhood must be overcome. Some of them appear in this story; many do not, and what they have contributed may never be known. Their conviction, courage and determination launched and sustains ECPAT. I hope telling the ECPAT story will inspire and guide those who follow in their steps.

J. de Lencastre
Chairperson, ECPAT International



What's Behind The Name?

ECPAT International is a global network dedicated to eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children or CSEC. There are now 62 groups in 50 countries in the ECPAT network. The international Secretariat is based in Bangkok, Thailand.

ECPAT's original name End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism was changed in 1996 to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for sexual purposes, reflecting the organisation's geographic expansion and broader mandate.

The ECPAT network is composed of the ECPAT groups who are its driving force. Every 3 years they meet as the International Assembly which is the highest decision making body of the organisation. The International Board, composed of 8 representatives from all continents, and an independent Chairperson, are elected at the Assembly and normally serve for three years. The International Secretariat is the administrative and co-ordinating unit of ECPAT International.

In 1996, the ECPAT network consisted of 17 groups. By 1999, the network had grown to 53 groups. Today, the distribution of ECPAT groups is as follows: Western Europe: 15 groups; Eastern Europe: 6 groups; Africa: 9 groups; Asia: 15 groups; The Pacific: 3 groups; North America: 4 groups; Latin America: 10 groups. Groups in the Middle East have recently applied for membership.

ECPAT groups are very diverse. Some are large coalitions of NGOs, some are small groups composed of individuals. Some have extensive financial and personnel resources; others have only a few and function with volunteers on a part-time basis. Some groups function at national level, others at a grassroots local level. Some have activities covering a wide range of CSEC issues while others concentrate on one aspect only. Other informal entities, such as ECPAT Europe, a regional grouping of Western European members, and key individuals play a significant role in the functioning of the movement.

Common Objectives

Despite its wide diversity, the ECPAT network works towards the following broad common objectives:

Monitoring Activities are a priority for the ECPAT network. Country specific information provided by ECPAT groups and partners is an essential component which complements and enriches the analysis and assessment of progress in implementing both the Stockholm Agenda and the Yokohama Global Commitment. ECPAT's monitoring



6 of the 8 members
of the ECPAT
International Board,
elected 1999

reinforces the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and assists Governments in living up to their commitments to children. Each year the network produces and distributes a report that monitors the implementation of the Agenda for Action. Since 2001 a unique database containing this information has been available through ECPAT International's website.

Developing the ECPAT Network

Not only is the network growing as ECPAT makes contact with more groups around the world - Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Pacific and the Middle East - so is the scope of the work.

The work being done by ECPAT groups includes raising awareness about child sex tourism and child pornography, protecting children at risk from prostitution, promoting new legislation, paedophile registers and prosecution, operating shelters for street children and caring for child victims.

Networking activities of the Secretariat include visits to analyse the situation of CSEC in each region and to identify organisations and agencies working to combat it. Following most of these visits, meetings are organised with workshops aimed at strengthening groups' capacities.

In 1999 ECPAT helped groups in Central America to develop National Plans of Action. In South America, ECPAT co-hosted a meeting in 2000 to promote the Agenda for Action and to strengthen the capacities of groups. In 2001, ECPAT organised multi disciplinary seminars in eight countries in Eastern Europe with the aim of extending the network and increasing the groups' capacity to combat sexual exploitation of children in that region. Three consultations were held in Africa over a 16 month period: one each in the Western, Eastern and Southern sub-regions. Others are planned for North Africa as well as the Middle East, Pacific Island nations and Latin America in 2003.

Several regional meetings are initiated by the network itself. The European groups – from both the East and West - have often assembled to discuss regional strategies.

In 2001, ECPAT Taiwan convened a meeting of all ECPAT groups in the Asia Pacific region. It was fitting that one of the four founding members would take on the role of host and create a venue for strengthening the network where it began over ten year earlier. In her welcome address Ruth Kao, Chairperson of ECPAT Taiwan, stated that it [the meeting] offered a “...rare opportunity to get together and exchange views on issues of common concern ...”



Networking meeting
in Paraguay, 2000

Combating Child Sex Tourism

Although ECPAT was launched as a campaign to fight child sex tourism, establishing a relationship with the tourism industry proved difficult at the start. ECPAT groups were often regarded with suspicion and sometimes accused of conducting a campaign against the tourism industry.

The Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations (UFTAA), the largest travel agent association in the world, changed that. Its members had become concerned about the growth of child prostitution and saw the need to play a more active role in combating it.

A statement from UFTAA's General Assembly held in Malta in November 1993 pledged to combat the prostitution of children related to so-called "sex tourism", and to give "every assistance to the various organisations, campaigns and charitable associations concerned with the welfare of child victims of "sex tourism" to help restore the dignity, physical and mental health of such children."

Many other tourism organisations, such as the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) followed UFTAA's lead. The WTO was asked to convene an Expert Group on Sex Tourism which ECPAT would attend. This group evolved into the Child Prostitution and Tourism Watch Task Force in 1997 and continues to provide a forum for sharing information and campaigning against child sex tourism.

ECPAT was chosen to be the NGO representative on the Executive Committee of the Task Force, which met for the first time in 2001.

Preventing Child Pornography on the Internet

Bringing the issue of child pornography to the public's attention has been one of ECPAT's major achievements. ECPAT responded early to the problems brought on by this new communications tool, and together with Interpol organised an 'experts' meeting in 1998.

In 1999, ECPAT joined with Beyond Borders (an ECPAT affiliate group) and others to intervene in the courts on the issue of the rights of children guaranteed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



"When it comes to finding child pornography on line, downloading it and then giving it to strangers met in chatrooms, there is no such thing as an amateur child pornographer and no flimsy explanation of innocence is believable."

Rosalind Prober, President of Beyond Borders

In 2002, ECPAT Switzerland and the Lobby for Children Switzerland organised an international Congress on the legal aspects of this issue. It received support from the Swiss authorities and other companies and foundations. The Congress closed with the unanimous approval of a seven-point resolution.

“Viewing child pornography on the Internet is neither an anonymous nor a specially hidden act...using Internet for child abuse purposes in one’s private home ... will be uncovered as crimes in public spheres.”

Katrin Hartmann, Executive Director of ECPAT Switzerland

Through its campaigns at national, regional and international level, ECPAT has made the world realise that child pornography cannot be reduced to a question of freedom of speech. ECPAT takes the stand that every pornographic image of a child is evidence of the sexual exploitation of that child and hence evidence of a crime.

ECPAT groups are active in raising awareness, creating and running hot lines, encouraging codes of conduct and promoting the safe use of the Internet.

A guidebook called “Protecting Children Online” was published by the Secretariat and translated into several languages. The Secretariat has also begun a Safety For Children Online project which will lead to the development of curriculum for school teachers.

Trafficking in Children

Trafficking in women and children has emerged as an issue of global concern in recent years: facilitated by porous borders and advanced communication technologies, it has become increasingly transnational in scope and highly lucrative.

Research on trafficking has been undertaken by the ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group which documents the movement of children from eastern to western Europe. This is the first stage of a longer term programme on trafficking which will include campaigning and training.

Another example is the research conducted in six countries in Latin America during 2000 and 2001 by ECPAT and Casa Alianza, an Honorary Member of the network. The research provided an innovative methodology which can be applied elsewhere.

The results show the extent and nature of trafficking in the region, identifies existing networks and provides profiles of the exploiters. It

also identifies gaps in legislation, as well as problems with law enforcement, and a lack of sensitivity on the part of police and judicial personnel towards children affected by commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. As follow up to the research ECPAT will begin a three year awareness-raising project primarily aimed at this sector, but also reaching health and education specialists, as well as the general public. Training materials for police and judicial personnel will be developed which include norms for child-friendly legal procedures, norms for the investigation of sexual offences against children, norms for the identification and treatment of trafficked children and procedures in repatriation and reintegration.

Training Care-givers

Some ECPAT members have prevention and protection programmes as well as ones offering recovery and reintegration that provide direct services to children who are victims of CSEC or those at risk. Many have developed high standards in providing care services and protecting children in care. The Secretariat is developing a “Good Practices” series based on the work of these members and other organisations.

The Secretariat has produced a guide for training care-givers to look after children who have been sexually exploited, as well as self study materials for organisations which do not have the resources or opportunity to provide training. The materials have been adapted and collated from the ideas and experiences from various sources from both within the network and other organisations. The materials have been field-tested in Asia, East Africa and Eastern Europe. They have recently been translated in to French for use in West Africa.

The training does not provide a simple prescription for the trauma which child victims of sexual exploitation experience. Through participatory exercises, those who attend are asked to explore the issues and come up with their own ideas for adapting their services to reflect the particular needs of these children. It is hoped that those who have received training will feel confident enough to respond to the challenge of this work.

Law Enforcement and Best Law Practices

ECPAT circulates information and provides expert advice on the use of extraterritorial jurisdiction to find and punish child sex offenders who commit crimes in a country other than their own. ECPAT also promotes improvements in legislation and in legal procedures as well as the introduction of special legislation where there was no such jurisdiction operating in favour of children.



Training caregivers
in Vietnam (top) and
Tanzania (bottom)

ECPAT national groups work with their national police forces in several countries in a spirit of mutual respect and co-operation and with agreed procedures for bringing child abusers to justice. ECPAT has been influential in promoting the use of the Liaison Officer system as a method of tracking paedophile sex offenders in countries where such officers are based.

A former police officer who had worked with ECPAT from 1995 to 1998 developed a handbook on investigating child sexual offences. The handbook was field tested in Cambodia and Tanzania. Its value is that it can be adapted for use in any country, and addresses the needs of the ordinary 'cop'.

Young People's Participation

ECPAT work has taught us that children and young people are best placed, not only to speak about their experiences, but to work on finding solutions to the problems and challenges affecting their lives.

From the outset, ECPAT's aim has been to encourage, coordinate and support integrating children and young people's participation into the ECPAT movement.

A representative of young people was invited to attend Board meetings as part of the process leading up to electing a young person to the Board of ECPAT International. Zeenith Ebrahim from South Africa attended the meeting in March 2002. In the conclusion to her report she says:

"...] believe attending the meeting has given me some insight into the extent of the benefits that can be derived from an organisation like ECPAT collaborating with young people on such a high decision making level.

"For the young person elected, I have no doubt that the experience will be one of the most enriching experiences they have experienced thus far. From an organisational point of view, I think the addition of a young person to the team provides a fresh perspective, free of any political organisational technicalities that adults sometimes tend to carry with them."

Zeenith Ebrahim

The Youth Coordinator, based in the Secretariat, has the important task of strengthening and developing the existing network of young people and their participation at all levels of ECPAT.



Education and Communication

The more people know about CSEC, the greater the chances of eradicating it. Public understanding of the issue contributes to changing attitudes towards children which is a key to the problem in many countries. Increasing public awareness results in increased resources and energies to fight CSEC as well as stimulating public pressure for government action.

Staff at the Secretariat play an important role in researching, writing, compiling and publishing ECPAT reports, newsletters and other publications, most of which is available through the website. Many groups in the network publish their own reports and newsletters as well.

ECPAT considers education of young people a key component in preventing sexual exploitation of children. Education gives children vital knowledge and skills to make wise and informed choices throughout their lives.

From 1998-2000, ECPAT managed a Prevention Project against child prostitution in Northern Thailand with funds donated by the Finnish people (through Taksvarkki ry Dagsvereke). This project supported local NGOs working with children at risk in hill tribe villages, as well as lowland Thais and street children.

Through activities such as school sponsorship, informal education, vocational training, and income generation assistance where appropriate, the children were given alternatives to entering the commercial sex industry. All projects had a community focus in that they are trying to influence the attitudes and behaviour of parents and villagers.

The project provides training to adult facilitators including teachers, social workers, and youth leaders with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the partners beyond the life of the project.

This project provides a model for other organisations and governments wishing to set up a similar project. The lessons learned from the first three years were carefully documented so that ECPAT can share a wealth of experience on the implementation of grass-roots prevention projects.

The second phase of the project got under way in March of 2001. This phase is being managed by the ECPAT Foundation in Thailand, established by ECPAT in 1999 to end CSEC.



The Need for a Campaign

“So let’s just end child prostitution in Asian tourism”

The sexual exploitation of children through prostitution is an age old and global problem. In some countries it has existed for centuries, embedded in historical and cultural practices. However, the growth in the trade in children began to attract public attention in the mid-1980s when some highly publicised cases drew international attention to the way in which Asian children were being kept in what was described as a modern form of slavery.

In 1988 the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism (ECTWT) launched a research project aimed at uncovering the facts regarding child prostitution in three Asian countries: Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Thailand. The aim was to uncover and document the connections between tourism and the increasing volume of child prostitution as a basis for further action. As funds were limited, the research was conducted on a part-time basis over a two-year period.

The results of the studies were heard at a consultation on child prostitution and tourism, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in May 1990. Sixty-eight people attended the five day event. Participants included representatives from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB), government agencies, ecumenical bodies, NGOs, universities and the press. The reports provided a preliminary picture of what was taking place in those countries. Eight invited speakers presented papers that analysed the problem from different perspectives. The proceedings of this consultation were published in a book called “Caught in Modern Slavery: Tourism and Child Prostitution in Asia”.

“Hunger in the midst of affluence and child prostitution are two other wars, undeclared, quietly waged, yet even more cruel. More cruel because the victimised child dies a slow death or at least permanently damaged—physically, psychologically and spiritually. war against children who have been induced, lured, coerced or sold into prostitution — a modern form of slavery. to help stop this war and to rebuild the future of our children, indeed, to rebuild the future of humanity itself. “

*Dr. Koson Srisang, ECTWT Executive Secretary
Excerpt from “Caught in Modern Slavery”*

The consultation ended with a determination to take action. A small committee was appointed and asked to consider how best to implement change. It was hoped that an existing organisation would see the issue as part of their mandate and would integrate it into their own programme.



For myself I had reservations (happily unfulfilled) that 'Chiang Mai' would be one more cosmetic 'splash' to focus on the most marginalized and victimised children in the world.

... Therefore, the extra-ordinary response to it overwhelmed me and my colleagues. ...Ron O'Grady simply stood up there in Chiang Mai and said: 'So? Let's end child prostitution in Asian tourism'. That's all. What more was needed? Let's get down to work. I was overjoyed."

*Maureen Seneviratne, Chairperson of P.E.A.C.E.
Excerpt from "For the Love of Children"*

It slowly became clear, however, that there was no obvious group able to do the lobbying and networking which would be needed to mount an international campaign.

If any concrete action was to come out of the Chiang Mai consultation it would have to be done by a new and independent organisation concentrating on this one issue: the sexual exploitation of children for profit.

A meeting was convened in Bangkok on the 9th of August, 1990 to discuss the feasibility of an international campaign. It was felt that there would be a great deal of goodwill for a well organised campaign and an official name for the campaign was adopted: End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT).

Through many discussions, the nature of the campaign began to take place. It was decided that the campaign should be kept to a limited timeframe to give it a sense of urgency. The initial length of the campaign would be three years (1991-1993), to be reviewed towards the end to decide whether to continue or stop or transform into something else.

“We have deliberately chosen the narrow goal for our campaign because we believe this can be achieved. We want to end child prostitution as it is related to tourism in the Asian countries of Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Thailand. This means we are not dealing with child prostitution or child abuse in its broadest context but only that which is generated by the presence of foreign tourism.”
ECPAT Newsletter, March 1991

An Executive Committee, Executive Secretary and an International Coordinator were selected from among the meeting’s participants. Ms Sudarat Srisang was asked to serve as the Executive Secretary of the ECPAT Secretariat and Ron O’Grady was asked to serve as the International Coordinator.

Representatives from UNICEF and the ICCB participated as observers in this meeting, offering their experience and knowledge. These two organisations have continued to work in close association with ECPAT.



Ron O’Grady and
Sudarat Srisang

This first executive meeting lasted just one day but closed with a sense of optimism.



The Early Years

Phase One - 1991 to 1993



The small bud is easily broken -from the soil- new flowers are nurtured

In the months that followed the initial executive meeting, ECPAT's new staff, all volunteers, began raising funds so that work could begin by January of 1991. Four European agencies each agreed to provide significant funding over the next three years, in addition to smaller amounts from other sources. These original donors have continued their support through the years, right up to the present. Since the beginning, the campaign created its own momentum and has continued to gather interest and support.

The original logo of ECPAT was designed in 1991. The image that was selected was a broken rosebud. It was an unusual choice, and yet appropriate for a number of reasons. Once the rose bud is severed from the stem and bruised it can no longer flower into full maturity but is inevitably doomed to fading and death. Some felt that the image by itself conveyed a sense of hopelessness. To balance this negative image, the logo was accompanied by the words "The small bud is easily broken -from the soil- new flowers are nurtured". In this way the broken rose bud was a symbol of both sadness and hope.

This campaign was moving in uncharted waters and the Executive Committee needed to consider all the options and their possible outcomes carefully. How best to proceed? Should the emphasis be local, national, regional or international? Which organisations would be natural allies in the campaign?

The preliminary plan for the ECPAT campaign envisaged that a presence would be needed in other Asian centres as well as the international office in Bangkok. Within the first few months of 1991, the first national office was set up in Sri Lanka. Offices in the Philippines and Taiwan followed shortly afterwards.

"... in Sri Lanka the picture was bleak indeed. Not a single NGO had been established to tackle this problem which had by 1990 reached sizeable proportions. What existed...was basically a culture of denial at high level which made the pioneering work of P.E.A.C.E. extremely difficult and risky. The existence therefore of ECPAT International, and being a National Group of this body was a source of strength to the P.E.A.C.E. campaign."

*Maureen Seneviratne, Chairperson of P.E.A.C.E.
Excerpt from For the Love of Children*

By the end of the first year ECPAT had expanded to include groups in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

The number of children estimated to be involved in prostitution met with widespread scepticism. Thus, one of the first tasks of ECPAT was to establish a database of verifiable statistics; not only for the number of children being exploited, but also for the number of abusers and their nationalities. In the first three years, ECPAT had collected the details of 160 foreigners who had been convicted of sexually abusing children in Asia.

Information was collected in cooperation with the media and the police, as well as from national surveys and studies by independent organisations. The collection and dissemination of information continues to be of fundamental importance to the work of ECPAT.

In March, 1991 ECPAT produced its first Newsletter to announce the launch of the campaign, subsequent issues recorded the progress of the campaign. Since then, the Secretariat has continued to publish this newsletter four times a year providing information on new developments.

ECPAT published its first book, *The Child and the Tourist*, in 1992. It provided background to the situation of prostituted children in Asia. It told the stories of children, as well as an account of action being taken to try to end child prostitution.

The Child and the Tourist was subsequently translated into several languages, including Swedish, German, Italian, Japanese and Vietnamese.

“Writing this book has been a painful experience. Like most people, I live in relatively sheltered world, far removed from the smelly rooms of cheap brothels in Asian cities. The children who are trapped in the slavery of these brothels were born with the same hopes and dreams of my children and children everywhere.

“And the men whose sexual appetites keep these children in slavery are the men who live seemingly respectable lives in my street and yours.

“That is why this unpleasant story must be told. So that we will know about the children and about the hidden evil which lies below the surface of your society and mine.”

Ron O’Grady

*Excerpt from *The Child and the Tourist**

Legislation in Asia covering sexual exploitation at this time was inadequate: laws on child prostitution were ill defined or never applied to foreigners; laws on child pornography were obscure, non existent or confusing. Making changes to legislation, and ensuring their application, became a focus for ECPAT. It was agreed that the focus should not be limited to national laws in Asian countries, but rather should be put on the international agenda.

ECPAT held its first international consultation in Thailand in March 1992. The conference was open to all interested persons, participants included a lawyers, social workers, politicians, police, psychologists, church workers and journalists. That 170 people from 26 countries paid their own way to attend was testimony to their dedication and commitment to the issue.

Children themselves actively participated in the conference. The presence of children gave added significance to the conference; their laughter and determination to rise above adverse situations gave great hope to the adult participants.

A truly significant outcome of this meeting was the introduction of a legal concept that could be applied to protect children better from foreign abusers: extraterritorial legislation. Quite simply, extraterritorial legislation enables a country to prosecute its citizens for crimes against children even if they are committed outside of the country.

As a direct result of the persistence of the German participants who came to this consultation, extraterritorial legislation was enacted in Germany by June 1993.

“Some images stay in your mind: that of a young street child from Bangkok speaking to a crowded room of adults and asking them to: “please go back to your countries and tell your people not to come to Bangkok- don’t come. If you do come don’t exploit our people.” There was no anger in his voice, just the tired resignation of a child who had become an adult before his time. A child who has seen all the injustice of the world in the suffering of other street children. His message, and that of the young village girl who escaped from prostitution, will remain among the enduring memories of the international conference on Children in Prostitution.”

Ron O’Grady

Excerpt from ““Children in Prostitution: Victims of Tourism in Asia”

“I oppose the prostitution of children and view with concern the growing incidence of this practice. The sexual abuse of children by foreign tourists must be ended.”

In 1993, the Executive Committee declared March 31 as the “Day to Remember Children in Prostitution”. To focus international attention on the issue, the publicity programmes highlighting the plight of children in prostitution were planned.

A number of well-known political and community leaders were approached and asked to sign the following statement: “I oppose the prostitution of children and view with concern the growing incidence of this practice. The sexual abuse of children by foreign tourists must be ended.”

Among the signatories were Prime Ministers Chuan Leekpai of Thailand and Vo Van Kiet of Vietnam, President Ramos of the Philippines, Sir Edmund Hillary, Mr. Stephen Lewis, former President Jimmy Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Cardinal Jaime Sin and the Dalai Lama.

In 1993, ECPAT held an international consultation in Germany. The timing was excellent: Germany was on the verge of passing its new law of extraterritoriality and the media was paying attention to this. This was ECPAT’s first meeting outside Asia, and was an opportunity to forge links with European NGOs and several important international organisations, such as Interpol, the WTO and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). ECPAT was subsequently invited to attend meetings of Interpol’s Standing Working Party on Offences Against Minors (now called the Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children).

A part of ECPAT - ten years on

I arrived in Thailand in 1992 to work as information officer for ECPAT in a very small and modest office in the outer suburbs of Bangkok. In those early days ECPAT was a very small office. Our main role was to tell the world about child sex tourism, advocate strategies and help build a network. After working with ECPAT International I came back to Australia in 1993 to form ECPAT Australia.

ECPAT was formed by a common vision, hope and optimism and was founded on inclusiveness which encouraged grass roots mobilisation and local ownership. It was driven by pure energy and an overwhelming commitment to protect vulnerable children. We were like a family and there was great joy when we came together to meet and share our experiences from all over the world. We supported each other and shared each other's challenges and successes. A remarkable feature of ECPAT was its tolerance as the network was made up of so many different types of people with a range of political and religious views. We always found common ground as we shared a united vision. This diversity was strength and we rejoiced in our differences.

ECPAT began as a relatively structureless entity with a focused mandate. It encouraged the development of an international consciousness and action. ECPAT also worked across sectors which was unique for NGO's. Our effective multi sectoral relationships and collaboration with others stood ECPAT apart from other NGO's. ECPAT could not be classified nor pigeon holed which made the world and especially the media curious. Ron O'Grady was a great leader who brilliantly navigated ECPAT through its formative years. Ron's integrity, diplomacy, cross cultural understanding, eternal patience and graciousness opened many doors for ECPAT throughout the world.

From the early days ECPAT has had a strong media presence and used the media effectively to raise international consciousness. ECPAT's strategies were seen to be effective and practical. The secretive world of child sex tourism was splashed across the world's newspapers, governments were introducing child sex tourism legislation, travel industries were condemning child sex tourism and the world was taking notice.

The growth of ECPAT was organic, rapid and quite remarkable. Within a few short years ECPAT became a voice to advocate for children who were being sexually exploited. More importantly the world listened. I am privileged to have been a part of ECPAT in those early days and, ten years later, I am still committed to the vision.

*Bernadette McMenamin,
National Director, CHILD WISE, ECPAT in Australia*

Phase Two - 1994 to 1996

“... we need to sit three years on a rock...”

In Japan there is a saying, “we need to sit three years on a rock” which means, if you can endure for three years you have accomplished something worthwhile. By 1994 ECPAT had completed its first three years sitting on the rock. A Newsletter Editorial from that period said: “It has not always been a comfortable place to be but the knowledge that we have been doing something useful has sustained us.”

ECPAT had given itself three years to end child prostitution in Asian tourism. This three year period would draw to a close at the end of 1993. Admittedly, it was a rather ambitious goal and one that obviously could not be accomplished in such a short time.

Following the International Consultation in Germany, the Executive Committee decided to continue the work of ECPAT for a further three years: 1994-1996. The decision came following a consultation of many interested groups and after an evaluation team had spoken with ECPAT groups around the world. In some countries, awareness raising campaigns ensured considerable support and action at both the community and governmental level. In many other countries, however, it was felt that the campaign was only just beginning.

While the consensus to continue was clear, the decision was also made that ECPAT would conclude its campaign at the end of 1996. An editorial for the special edition of the ECPAT newsletter to announce the extension of the campaign stated “ECPAT has a further three years to make this message so universally accepted that the scourge of this modern slavery will be outlawed forever.”

Ron O’Grady was asked to take over as the new Executive Secretary for the second phase. He served in this position until January 1995 when Amihan Abueva of the Philippines became the new Executive Secretary in Bangkok. Ron O’Grady continued his direct involvement in the role of International Coordinator.



Amihan Abueva,
visitor to ECPAT
and Ron O’Grady

In addition to continuing the activities of the first three years, new ones were initiated. It was decided to move from a secret location in one of Bangkok's suburbs to a downtown office which would be visible and readily accessible to the public. The Director of the Student Christian Centre (SCC) of the Church of Christ in Thailand offered ECPAT the use of an old Thai style house at the back of its property in the heart of Bangkok. Visitors to ECPAT remark that the grounds are like an oasis in the middle of Bangkok: large trees, orchids, birds and squirrels flourish.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Resource Centre

The Japanese government gave a grant to ECPAT to repair the old house and to establish an Information Centre there. This was the result of Japanese ECPAT groups lobbying their government to take positive action towards ending child prostitution. The importance of information to the growth of ECPAT should not be minimised. In the days before Internet, regular publications such as bulletins and newsletters were the only way that the international community could be held together.

In 1995, "Children Are Not For Sale", a documentary film on ECPAT was produced. The film described the work and strategies of ECPAT. It received much praise wherever it was shown and the soundtrack was translated into several languages.

Another new initiative was the setting up of a Fund for Children. This Fund had three objectives: to assist established programmes involved in rehabilitation or prevention work; to provide seed money for new programmes; and to bring together those working directly with children who had been sexually exploited to share experiences and receive training in new methods. One of the first activities carried out under this Fund was to provide training to Thai and Filipino social workers in Sweden and Australia. Reciprocal visits by experts led to plans for new rehabilitation programmes.

Previously ECPAT had concentrated solely on ending child prostitution and had not been directly involved in rehabilitation programmes. In announcing this Fund, ECPAT referred to the positive actions undertaken by the Thai government, and wrote in the Special Edition Newsletter, that "...this is good news because it reflects the expectation that the next few months will see many young people being released from brothels".

Other initiatives concentrated on law enforcement and application of the law. In January 1996 a consultation called “Enforcing the Law” was held in Bangkok. Bringing together more than 50 law enforcement experts from seventeen countries, the consultation was an opportunity to review new laws and refine strategies for monitoring, arresting and prosecuting exploiters.

*“Law enforcement must, therefore, find new ways, think better thoughts, set new priorities and cooperate with others. This is challenging but the quality of life of today’s children depends on the equality of international law enforcement.”
Ann Kristin-Olsen, Chairperson Interpol Standing Working party on Offences against Minors at “Enforcing the Law”*

As various countries in Asia and the West started to change their laws it was immediately evident that without proper law enforcement, these changes would be ineffective. ECPAT worked in close cooperation with local and national law enforcement agencies, as well as Interpol, to monitor child sex abuse cases in Asia.

There is evidence that there has been some success: not only has the number of convictions risen dramatically over the past ten years, but the judges have passed increasingly harsher sentences.

Today, ECPAT focuses on providing educational training to law enforcement agencies rather than monitoring individual cases of abuse. The ECPAT Law Enforcement Program began in April 1996 to train and motivate police to investigate complaints of commercial sexual exploitation of children in a positive and sensitive way.



Mick Kearney, working with the police in Cambodia

“Drawing on my experience as a police detective in Australia, I began to conduct field and classroom training with the assistance of ECPAT network groups in Asia. Field training with police often led to the arrest of both local and foreign child exploiters in the countries where the offences were committed. Police officers were encouraged to continue their pursuits of suspected child exploiters who fled the country These pursuits led to some countries implementing their extra-territorial laws to convict offenders as they returned to their home country.”

Mick Kearney, ECPAT Law Enforcement Program Consultant



During this period, demands in the area of law reform were particularly heavy. As each new country reviewed their children's law they sought information from ECPAT about good practices. A German agency, Dienste en Übersee provided a human rights lawyer to work with ECPAT, as required, throughout 1995 and 1996. Muireann O Briain, a barrister and senior counsel from Ireland with experience in international law from her work with the International Commission of Jurists, was eminently suited for the position.

“An advisory service on legal reform got underway in the ECPAT Secretariat. Interest in the issue of extraterritorial jurisdiction was enormous. We then had the idea of doing case studies on how it had been applied. This eventually grew into the Case Studies project undertaken by the Law Enforcement Group of ECPAT Europe. For me it was a wonderful experience of sharing professional legal skills with grassroots experiences.”
Muireann O Briain, Legal consultant for ECPAT International

Over the years, many people in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Africa had written to ECPAT seeking information. From anecdotal evidence, it became evident that the number of sexually exploited children was growing rapidly in these regions.

Plans were laid to move beyond Asia and monitor the commercial sexual exploitation of children around the world. It was decided that teams of about three people each would travel to other continents to meet agencies, disseminate information about ECPAT and take steps to develop similar campaigns.

In the latter months of 1994, a working group of lawyers, judges and jurists in Brazil discussed the possibility of a national campaign. By 1996 they launched a three year national campaign in Brasilia's Parliament Building.

Following the 1995 visit of an ECPAT team to East Africa, a coalition of twenty NGOs formed a national ECPAT group in Kenya. In Southern Africa, ECPAT agreed to organise a meeting between some of its legal advisors and legislators and NGOs from five African countries. The meeting, held in Pretoria in 1996, compared laws and looked at changes which were being proposed.

Over this 3 year period, teams visited organisations in other Latin American and African countries, as well as Eastern Europe, Russia

and China. ECPAT national groups also began to expand their activities. In 1995 ECPAT France initiated contacts in Northern Africa, and other groups began looking at the Middle East. ECPAT was becoming a global movement.

ECPAT's work with tourism continued. ECPAT commissioned two sociologists to study the effects of child prostitution and its link with sex tourism. The results of their research was published in a seven-booklet series focusing on Venezuela, Goa, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, South Africa and Thailand.

National groups also continued their work with the travel industry. ECPAT Australia produced a travel industry guide called "Child Sex Tourism, travel agents and the law" which contained helpful documentation for travel agents.

A crucial decision was made during ECPAT's second phase of the campaign: to stimulate the direct involvement of governments in ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Sixteen governments were invited to send representatives to a consultation held in Bangkok in 1994. The then Prime Minister of Thailand, Chuan Leekpai, opened the meeting by promising tough action.

"Child prostitution cannot be tolerated. It is a new form of trade in human beings and it is shocking to witness the widespread sex trade and child prostitution growing around the world."
Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand, 1994.

The second phase of the ECPAT campaign was due to end at the close of 1996, so prior to the First World Congress, the ECPAT Executive Committee had a number of important issues to discuss, including the future of ECPAT itself.

There was a universal feeling that the work which was begun in 1991 had not yet been completed, and that the Congress would give a new impetus to this work.

Comments from partners from Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe who joined the meeting and reports from the ECPAT teams that had visited other continents made it clear that ECPAT was already a global movement.



Three of the invited speakers at the 1994 international consultation

By the time the second phase of the campaign came to an end in 1996, there were ECPAT groups established in 27 countries, and informal networks in several more countries were in regular contact with ECPAT. When the Secretariat opened in Bangkok in 1991, those present had no idea that they were to be part of the growth of an international movement.

“Perhaps most important is the realisation that a campaign must be open to everyone who shares the same goals. ECPAT does not ‘own’ the issue of child prostitution and it has welcomed participation from an enormous variety of people who have a commitment to working on this issue within their own organisations and professional fields.

“There is something about the awful suffering of a child forced to work in commercial sex which speaks to people across many boundaries. Liberal and conservative groups have identified with the campaign to end child prostitution and persons who, in other situations might never talk to each other, have found common cause in working to assist the children.”

*Ron O’Grady, Honorary President of ECPAT
Excerpt from “The ECPAT Story”*



Working Together

“Building alliances for multi-party collaborations with a wide range of agencies and sectors is a continuous and important challenge for ECPAT. The experience of building a global campaign to end child sex tourism and of working as a co-organizer of the two major World Congresses on CSEC, have underscored the benefits of partnership and solidified ECPAT’s fundamental commitment to a partnership model of work.”

Carmen Madrinan, Executive Director, ECPAT International



ECPAT recognised, very early on, that collaborations and partnerships to address the problem of CSEC would be essential for combating an increasingly global and boundary-less problem. A collaborative approach has therefore been a philosophy underlying the work of ECPAT since its inception.

While the work of ECPAT member organisations is local in its focus, the organised collaboration of the ECPAT network and its partnerships with other national and international bodies has ensured a broader influence on policy making, related to CSEC and children’s rights, at various levels.

Over the years, ECPAT has grown to become a global network whose membership reflects the richness and diversity of experience, knowledge and perspectives, which arise from working in widely different contexts. This growth and diversity has brought new opportunities and challenges for the network.

As these opportunities and challenges evolve and unfold, ECPAT has sought to nurture and harness the commitment underpinning these partnerships to ensure a collective presence and response to address the problem of CSEC worldwide.

One of the benefits of being part of the ECPAT network, indeed any network, is its enormous pool of knowledge and experience in combating CSEC and the willingness of members to share and exchange ideas and tools.

Campaign materials targeting the child sex tourist have been “borrowed” from one group and used successfully by others. These materials range from luggage tags to ticket jackets to training curricula in tourism colleges.

Several groups have developed materials to educate children about the possible dangers of sexual predators on the Internet and have made these available to the entire network. These materials range from an animated character named E-baby to comic books to mouse pads with a safety message.

A song "Who Stole the Children?" composed for use by the ECPAT network as a campaign tool, was performed for the first time at the International Assembly in 1999 by a member of ECPAT France. The three verses cover the main focus of ECPAT's work. The verse addressing child pornography is as follows:

Herve Barioulet,
singing "Who
Stole the
Children?"



Do you know the child we're looking for?
You can find him everywhere
His image recurs in the computers
But you can't bring him back from there

What are the things that child has seen?
What does his picture say?
As he stares from the screen or the magazine,
Lost innocence on display

This spirit of cooperation extends well beyond the confines of our own network. Since its beginning, ECPAT has sought cooperation with both the public and the private sectors, notably lawmakers, law enforcement agencies, the travel and tourism business and the Internet industries. These efforts have brought, and continue to bring forth, some of the most important initiatives against CSEC.



On an international level, ECPAT collaborates with UNICEF, IOM, ILO-IPEC as well as the WTO and Interpol. ECPAT also follows closely the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and that of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and contributes wherever possible.

The network also works with non-governmental organisations such as the International Save the Children Alliance, Defence for Children International, World Vision, Anti-Slavery International and the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, as well as coalitions such as the NGO Group on the Rights of the Child.

ECPAT and INTERPOL

Following a decision by the UK National Crime Intelligence Service, in February 1999 I was seconded by them to work at the Interpol General Secretariat specifically on combating crimes against children.

Interpol had formed this new group and I was the first police officer to be seconded by a Member State to work specifically on this crime area.

Interpol's links with ECPAT had already been established. However, during my time with the organisation, I have endeavoured to support as many initiatives as possible and applaud the dedication that those involved with ECPAT have demonstrated.

Having been involved in many of these initiatives, I have tried to introduce the positive role that law enforcement can make to protect children from sexual exploitation. We all know that the eradication of abuse is the ultimate goal and law enforcement has an important role to play in preventing abuse.

I am only aware of the weaknesses many law enforcement agencies have demonstrated in combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children, however, I can assure you that Interpol consider this crime area to be a high priority and have confirmed their commitment by creating a Trafficking in Human Rights Sub Directorate which I have been appointed to manage.

The focus of the Sub Directorate will be the protection of children from abuse. They are the one section of society who have the least access to the criminal justice system and Interpol are determined to continue to work towards making the world a safer place for children.

To achieve our aim we recognise and appreciate the role that ECPAT undertakes and look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our ultimate goal.”

*Hamish McCulloch, Assistant Director, Trafficking in Human Beings
INTERPOL General Secretariat,
Lyon, France, July 2002*

ECPAT and the WTO

In the early 1990s, the Secretariat of the WTO was approached for the first time by a number of NGOs and religious networks alarmed by the extension that child sex tourism was taking in the Asian region. Among those actors, ECPAT was the only global movement addressing child prostitution in tourism. Thanks to the collaboration that resulted from the initial contact between WTO and ECPAT, our organisation could convince its Member States to take a firm stance against this phenomenon, by adopting the WTO Statement against organised sex tourism (1995). This declaration was followed in 1999 by the adoption of the WTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, through which countries unanimously accepted to combat energetically the sexual exploitation of children in tourism and penalise it without concession.

But the cooperation between our two organisations became closer after 1996 when, in reply to the Plan of Action of the Stockholm Congress, WTO established a task force and launched an international campaign to prevent the sexual exploitation of children occurring in tourism networks. To WTO, ECPAT was one of the logical partners to form this group of committed actors, along with some tourism industry associations and a small number of governments which were forerunners in taking concrete administrative and legal measures to fight this practice in their countries.

Cooperation broadened in 2001 when the WTO and the European Union (EU) pooled resources to boost their campaign by signing an agreement according to which a one-million-Euro grant was awarded to our organisation and its NGO partners to carry out a series of interrelated projects. A group of ECPAT national offices in Europe participated in this global operation with the proposal of a "Code of Conduct" for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism". Renewed financial contribution of the same amount this year will enable WTO and the ECPAT groups to pursue their activities to prevent children from being sexually exploited in tourism.

ECPAT's contribution has been very constructive for WTO in the sense that it has helped our organisation in placing in the right perspective its activities in favour of a sustainable and responsible tourism development: in the perspective of the respect of the child in every tourist destination.

Marina Diotallevi

Coordinator, Task Force for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism, World Tourism Organisation (WTO)

Madrid, 25 July 2002.

On a regional level, there is cooperation with the Instituto Interamericano del Niño, European Travel Agents and Tour Operators' Association, Pacific Asia Travel Association, and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) among others.

The Secretariat is working with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office to develop simple, reliable indicators that will better describe and measure progress of work on CSEC. In South East Asia work has already begun in turning commitment into concrete action with a joint agency - ECPAT-UNICEF-UNESCAP initiative to monitor progress.

The private sector is becoming an increasingly important partner for the network, particularly as efforts to address the 'demand' side of CSEC are stepped up.

Representatives from the computer industry and Internet service providers are now more willing to advise on the technological and legal complications of regulating an industry serving millions of customers. Professional advertising agencies in New Zealand and Sweden have designed and produced posters and videos, *pro bono*, which target the end line exploiters who create a lucrative market for the commercial exploitation of children. These materials, developed in cooperation with the ECPAT group in that country, have been made available to the network.

A number of international airlines now show in-flight videos on long-haul flights carrying such messages as "A Child is Not a Holiday Souvenir" and "Sex with children is a crime. For those who have forgotten this, there are now laws to remind them". These videos are available for use by other airlines. ECPAT groups are invited to persuade their national carriers to show them also.

" ... We should learn a lesson from the traffickers. Despite speaking different languages and operating out of different countries they co-operate magnificently."

Teresa Albano of IOM, "Il Traffico di Minori: Piccoli Schiavi Senza Frontiere" conference on child trafficking in Rome, 2002.



From Campaign To NGO

It was agreed in 1996 that ECPAT would continue for another 5 years. However there were to be several significant changes:

A new name: the acronym ECPAT was kept but would stand for End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for sexual purposes to reflect the broader mandate and enlarged geographical spread of the membership.

A new organisation: ECPAT ceased to be a campaign and became an international non-governmental organisation or NGO. Ron O'Grady became the Chairman of the new Executive Committee of ECPAT International that now had representatives from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America.

A new logo: members of the network called for a new design. The new logo, it was said, should better capture the spirit of the organisation, it must convey a positive and hopeful image of the child and be a positive affirmation of children's rights.



Proposals for a new logo were received from professional graphic artists in six countries. In 1996, the executive chose a design from the Philippines. It is the image of a child waving a flower, which was thought to be an appropriate symbol of hope and a strong expression of the organisation's ethos. The logo is distinctive, informal and easily identified. The executive believed that it would be universally recognised as a symbol for those who work to end CSEC everywhere.

In 1997 Hervé Berger was appointed Executive Director to replace Amihan Abueva who had been Executive Secretary since 1995. His first tasks was to develop strategic directions that would strengthen ECPATs capacity for concerted and sustained action. He was replaced by Muireann O Briain in November 1998. She continued and strengthened the work initiated by Hervé Berger.



"I take this opportunity to express my happiness at being given the opportunity to lead ECPAT into the next millennium. The challenges we face as a movement are enormous and I look forward to working closely with all of you in finding ways to face these challenges and bringing an end to child prostitution across the globe."

Hervé Berger, former Executive Director, ECPAT International



10th Anniversary Message

In May ten years ago, a small group of people met for a consultation in Chiang Mai, Thailand. At first it seemed like just another of the tens of thousands of conferences held in Asia and the rest of the world every year.



*Ron O'Grady,
addressing an
audience*

There was a small group of about 60 people altogether. The things we heard at that meeting were unlike anything most of us had heard before. The story of a young Philippine girl murdered by the sexual assault of an Austrian tourist; an American Mormon running a children's shelter in Thailand and using the children to entertain his paedophile friends, poor families selling their daughters so they could buy a television set.

That meeting turned a group of ordinary professional conference goers into activists and made them determined to set up some structure to challenge this abuse of children. It was out of this anger that ECPAT was born.

At first we focused solely on Asia but it was soon apparent that Asians needed allies in Europe, America, Australia and the other countries which were sending tourists and paedophiles to Asia to abuse the children. The movement slowly became global as it spread to the other continents around the world.

Ten years ago, none of us would have believed that the movement that began in May 1990 would become international in such a way and that we would celebrate our 10th anniversary with ECPAT groups in over 50 countries.

The strength of ECPAT has always been in the work of the national groups and remains so today with wonderful work being done in many countries to heighten awareness and provide support for children.

The inspiration of ECPAT is the commitment and vision of those individuals in the network who give themselves without reserve to the work of helping to stop the abuse of children. Many of you work long hours for minimal (and sometimes no) salary and you do so cheerfully and without hesitation. Your dedication has helped to save many children around the world.

*Ron O'Grady,
Founder member and Honorary President of ECPAT International*



Six ECPAT Landmarks

“Don’t just listen, but take action”

1. First World Congress - 1996

The decision to hold a first World Congress against the commercial sexual exploitation of children was taken in June 1994. The government of Sweden was approached and asked to act as host country. The Prime Minister of Sweden, Ingvar Carlsson, promised his full support. Shortly afterwards, the Deputy Secretary General of UNICEF promised the full backing of his organisation in planning the congress. Key representatives of the ILOrganisation, Interpol, World Health Organisation and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child also indicated their willingness to help.

“I take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to ECPAT for its dedicated action world-wide against the sexual exploitation of children. It is in response to an initiative by ECPAT that the Government of Sweden will host the World Congress from 27-31 August 1996 in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

*Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden
Message to the ECPAT Executive, April 1996*

Queen Silvia of Sweden agreed to grant her royal patronage to the Congress and to be present at the opening and closing ceremonies. Her support for the Congress and ECPAT work has been and continues to be a source of great encouragement.

The First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was a unique event in that it brought together for the first time government, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations. There were 718 government officials representing 122 countries, 105 representatives from the United Nations and inter governmental organisations, 471 NGO representatives and a delegation of 47 young people participating in this week long event.



*Her Majesty
Queen Silvia of
Sweden*

It was at ECPAT's insistence that young people were allowed to play an active part. It was the voice of young people in particular which ensured that the reality of commercial sexual exploitation and abuse was kept at the forefront of the debates. "Don't just listen, but take action" was their closing appeal.

Over 500 people from the media were present at the Congress and reported on events. The German newspaper Die Zeit reported "the Congress "...was strong evidence of an emerging new power in society- the grassroots NGOs".

Congress delegates unanimously adopted a Declaration and Agenda for Action. Thus, 122 governments committed themselves to forming "a global partnership against the commercial sexual exploitation of children" and to develop a national agenda for action by 2000.

The Declaration and Agenda for Action calls for action from States, all sectors of society, and national, regional, and international organisations, against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. In particular, it calls for action to be undertaken in Cooperation and Coordination, Prevention, Protection, Recovery and Reintegration, and Youth Participation.

This Declaration and Agenda for Action is a critically important document which continues to guide the work of ECPAT and other organisations working specifically to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

"For me it is of great importance that the Declaration and Agenda for Action has been adopted unanimously. ...I am also pleased that you have agreed on a deadline for the implementation of the stipulated actions. This reflects the sense of urgency which must accompany our efforts. We have to act now and we have to act forcefully."

*"We owe this to the children who have been abused, tortured and even killed by sex offenders and to the children who are at risk of becoming victims."
Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden,
Closing Address to the Congress*



From Stockholm to Yokohama

Having organised the meeting of the Executive Committee of ECPAT International in 1996, the Swedish Embassy in Tokyo, ECPAT/Stop Japan, ECPAT Sweden and the Japan Committee for UNICEF organised a follow up manifestation to take place at the Embassy in May 1997. The organisers asked Her Majesty Queen Silvia if she would consider being a key note speaker at the seminar. She generously accepted.

At the time, law enforcement agencies abroad were increasingly complaining about Japan's slack legislation and the poor level of police action against child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children. When given the opportunity to address Japanese Parliament members in 1996, ECPAT received a positive response from some female Diet (Japanese parliament) representatives.

Queen Silvia's active participation at the seminar had a tremendously positive influence. Not only did her speech have a strong impact on the participants and media representatives but it persuaded Princess Takamado of the Japanese Imperial Family also to take part in the seminar. The seminar was a great success and media attention was impressive. ... A joint Statement against the commercial sexual exploitation of children was signed by the Swedish Ambassador, representatives of ECPAT International and the Japan Committee for UNICEF. The Statement was handed over to Prime Minister Hashimoto [with] a strong appeal for legislative measures.

Shortly after the seminar a law making process was initiated in the Japanese Diet, thanks mainly to efforts on the part of Japanese women MP's. In response to mounting international criticism about the lack of effective laws in Japan to punish sexual abuse of children and inspired by yearly follow up seminars at the Swedish Embassy organised by the same partners as the first one, a major law package for the protection of children against sexual abuse and exploitation, was finally adopted by the Diet. It came into force on November 1, 1999.

What is described above is not only an outstanding example of international cooperation and partnership building, it also lay the foundations for the Second World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which was hosted by the Japanese Government in Yokohama on 17-20 December 2001.

*Junko Miyamoto, ECPAT/Stop Japan and Helena Karlén, ECPAT Sweden
Akihiko Morita, Japan Committee for UNICEF
Kaj and Toyoko Reinius, Embassy of Sweden in Tokyo*

2. First ECPAT International Assembly - 1999

ECPAT held its first International Assembly in Bangkok in September 1999. There had been no event of this kind since the World Congress in Stockholm, and many people from the ECPAT network met one other for the first time. The Assembly brought together participants from over 50 countries, representing ECPAT groups, as well as observers from other non-governmental organisations (NGOs), representatives from United Nations bodies and other inter-governmental organisations, law enforcement agencies, social workers, funding organisations and researchers.

One objective of the Assembly was to develop the capacity of ECPAT groups to combat CSEC. Workshops are an excellent way of doing this and as there is a high level of expertise within ECPAT itself, many workshop facilitators were drawn from the network. A second objective was for members to agree on an institutional framework to direct the policies and activities of the ECPAT network in the coming years. A Constitution was adopted and an international Board was elected. Strategic directions for the coming period were discussed and priorities identified.

Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai of Thailand delivered a speech stressing the need for partnership between government and the non-governmental sector in combating CSEC. In his keynote speech, part of which appears in the following pages, Professor Muntarbhorn, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children and a steadfast ECPAT friend, first of all outlined the multiple roles played by ECPAT and then listed some of the challenges facing the organisation.

It is vital that world leaders recognise the existence of this disgusting commerce and mobilise action against it.

Liz O'Donnell, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

The Community Theatre Group of Thailand performed a play written and directed by a Thai folk artist. The young performers used simple props, masks and traditional musical instruments. The final event of the Assembly was the launch and distribution of a global report, "A Step Forward," on how governments are keeping the promises they made to children at the First World Congress. Echoing the title of the report, newly-elected Chairperson, Jo de Linde, urged for all ECPAT members to "... take a step forward together."



ECPAT and the Winds of Change

Since ECPAT first started its work several years ago, I have been eagerly watching its progress. I remember those small but significant beginnings in Chiangmai ... after the Stockholm World Congress, ECPAT changed from an international campaign to an international organisation ... ECPAT has been playing these major roles: campaigner, reformer, monitor, organiser and implementer. These multiple roles of ECPAT are not mutually exclusive but complement each other. They have ensured a great variety of activities from the organisation and many notable successes as mentioned above. Yet, the path to action is not always easy.

First, there is the critical issue of ECPAT's own self-organisation and the change from a campaign to an international non governmental organisation. Professionalisation and capacity-building are recurrent themes, indicating the need to build a child-responsive global system which is neither too institutionalised nor too personalised. The wind of systematisation is necessary and it can be well complemented by a personal human touch in its operations.

Second, there is the geographical challenge. To be a global organisation requires more representation from the countries which are not yet well represented in ECPAT, such as central Asia, parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Third, there is the challenge of linguistic and cultural diversity in the setting of universality. How many languages ECPAT will include in its work and how it will cater to cultural diversity will depend upon a gradual inclusive process so that the different corners of the globe feel part of one family with a universal commitment to child rights. However, where the cultural practices diverge from international standards, e.g. local practices which perpetuate gender discrimination and violence against children, they obviously have to be reformed.

Fourth, as ECPAT grows, it is faced with the challenge of whether to place more emphasis on advocacy and reform work at the international and trans-national levels or to initiate more local programmes and be involved in their implementation at the grassroots level. It need not be seen as an "either/or" situation; the two levels of operations - international and local; principle and practice - are complementary, but with limited resources, it is not always easy to apportion those resources for both levels.

Fifth, the need for funds is an inevitable challenge faced by NGOs, and ECPAT is no exception to this reality. ECPAT's challenge will be not only to seek funding from outside donors, but in the long term it will also need to establish a central savings fund and/or endowment so that it can sustain its operations consistently.!

Sixth, there is the challenge of setting a long-term vision coupled with an effective mission. While the Stockholm Congress used the year 2000 as the linchpin for demanding national plans of action, national focal points and data bases, the work against child sexual exploitation will have to be targeted well beyond that year... A strategic plan of ECPAT is obviously important to outline the priority areas. The year 2001 may also provide a timely opportunity for a review conference as follow-up for the Stockholm Congress, to take stock of developments with a view to propelling action against child sexual exploitation into the next millennium.

Seventh, while ECPAT is a very key actor against child sexual exploitation, the scenario of key actors is growing. ECPAT is faced with the challenge of deciding where its comparative advantages are, and where and how to network well with the other key actors.

Eighth, the voices of the children must be heard more strongly in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes of concern to their lives. The child is defined internationally as under 18 years of age. A pertinent question, therefore, is to what extent a future Constitution of ECPAT will provide for the participation of those under 18 years old. Even if it may be felt that they should not be involved in actual decision-making, a key challenge will be to ensure that those under 18 are adequately consulted and have opportunities to make their views known through channels which are sensitive and accessible to children.

If these challenges call for a degree of reflection and self-reflection, they are tendered humbly from a long-standing friend of ECPAT, because they are the inevitable challenges of growing up and growing together.

Inevitably, the next millennium will be tested with and by these winds of change surrounding child sexual exploitation: human rights, democracy, people centred development, peace, safe and child-responsive environment, and good governance. The place for ECPAT in this setting will depend upon all of us - our commitment, our friendship, and our partnership.

At the dusk of the old millennium, whither ECPAT at the dawn of the new millennium? A gentle breeze carrying a message of hope with an indomitable spirit well represented in the ECPAT logo - a child carrying a flower, breezing with the colours of the wind."

*Vitit Muntarbhorn, Professor at the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok, 1999*

3. International Conference on Young People's Participation - 2000



The aim of ECPAT's International Young People's Participation Project (IYPPP) was to increase the level of young people's participation in the campaign against commercial sexual exploitation.

Young people can offer a fresh approach, imagination and energy to finding solutions to problems affecting them. As young people become more involved in decision making, they develop confidence, insights and responsibility in facing critical issues.

"It presents the unique perspective of the youth as they confront such a complicated issue ... mirrors the capacity of the young people to analyse issues affecting them and work together to help solve the problem."

*Amihan Abueva, Project Director of the ECPAT IYPPP project (1997-2000)
Excerpt from "Changing Our Lives: National Reports"*

In 1997, ECPAT began work to develop a network of young people's groups in several countries. Training modules on the theory and processes for facilitating the participation of young people were developed, and young people were trained to develop skills, leadership and organisation in promoting youth action for implementing the Agenda for Action.

Other activities included networking with the media to promote child-friendly practices and coverage of youth activities, training young people in communication and journalism skills, and designing and preparing promotional materials with young people.

The Young People's Participation Conference, held in Manila from 21 to 25 May 2000 was the highlight of the international project. 180 young people from 29 countries made regional presentations, discussed the role of young people in finding solutions and proposed concrete actions for both young people and adults. Those adults who were privileged to attend all say it was a wonderful, unforgettable experience.

Workshop themes, which had been selected by the young people themselves, included: helping survivors and helping mechanisms, discrimination and exclusion, mass media (including child pornography), HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and abuse and child labour.

A song, Faith of a Child, was composed and arranged by Mele Javier Yamomo. The lyrics were by Karen Camposuelo and Mele Javier Yamomo. The song was based on young people's prayers and wishes and was first sung by The Children of Smokey Mountain and delegates to the IYPPP Conference.

Chorus from Faith of a Child:

We stand together
We know our rights
Hold fast the hope that we can change our lives
It's not impossible
And we know why

We have the faith of a child
(I am your precious child)



Addressing the young panelists at the Manila Conference, 2000

"We do not believe that this problem (CSEC) can be eradicated without our full involvement. We implore that all measures be taken to guarantee the rights of children and youth everywhere to participate at local, national and international levels to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. We demand that young people be empowered to take an active and committed role in decision-making, developing and implementing strategies against the commercial sexual exploitation of children."

Manila Youth Declaration and Agenda for Action

4. Second World Congress - 2001

"I feel overwhelmed that young people have been given the chance [to make themselves heard]. They are speaking from the bottom of their hearts."

Vera Ocampo, young peoples' representative from the Philippines

The Second World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (SWC) was held in Yokohama, Japan from 17 to 20 December 2001. The Government of Japan hosted the event with UNICEF, ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Rights of the Child as co-organisers, reflecting the unique and successful partnership formed for the First World Congress.

The number of governments represented (134) was greater than that for the First World Congress, (122) and the number of participants (over 3,000) was almost double that for Stockholm. About 100 young people took part in the Congress. Despite the inevitable fatigue, the Yokohama Congress was considered a success by young people. They all said they had been enriched by the mix of cultures and identities they'd encountered.



The logo for the Yokohama Congress was the same as the one chosen for the First Congress: a dramatic hand symbolising at one and the same time the power of the abuser and the protective gesture.

The aims of the Congress were to take stock of what had been accomplished since the Stockholm Congress in 1996, to share expertise and good practices, to identify main areas and problems still to be tackled as well as gaps and challenges, and to strengthen the follow-up process to the Stockholm Congress.

The SWC was designed as a "working" Congress. Three panel discussions on the themes Lessons Learned, Challenges and Gaps and Ways Forward were integrated into the plenary sessions. Government delegates reported on national strategies, action plans and legislative developments. Over 100 workshops were conducted and ECPAT organised ten with themes as diverse as campaigning, extraterritorial legislation, Internet safety and young leaders.

Six theme papers were commissioned as background reading; ECPAT being responsible for "Child Pornography and the Internet" and "The Role and Involvement of the Private Sector". Themes covered in the other papers were the profile of the child sex offender; prevention, protection and recovery; trafficking; the international legal framework and current national legal response.

Prior to the Congress, six regional meetings were held to assess achievements and failures since Stockholm and to identify regional needs and priorities. Documents from each of the regional consultations outlining a common position to guide future efforts in eliminating CSEC were annexed to the main outcome document from the Yokohama Congress, the Yokohama Global Commitment. The final text of this document was adopted by consensus applause on 20 December 2001.

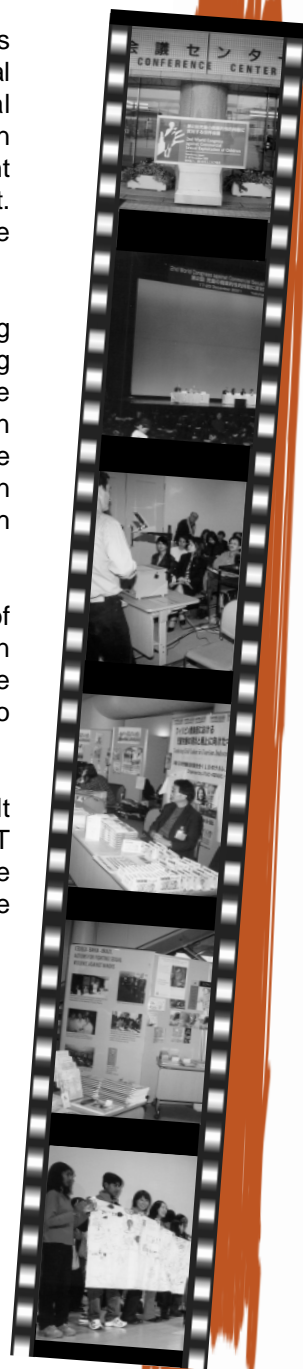
The final appeal of children and young people was adopted during an impressive performance of drama, music and poetry. In it, young people called for, among other things, education, developing life skills, raising awareness and advocacy about the Committee on the Rights of the Child and CSEC for all sexes and age groups, the need to address gender issues related to CSEC, to fight corruption as one of the factors contributing to growth of CSEC, to punish offenders and not children who are the victims of CSEC.

Young people committed themselves to building a network of children and young people across the world, and called on governments to initiate a CSEC Fund for Youth that would make financial means available for young people to carry out activities to combat CSEC worldwide.

The Congress provided yet another turning point for ECPAT. It focused international attention on CSEC, and provided the ECPAT network with a chance to demonstrate its capacities and increase the expertise of its members. The new partnerships formed there will help develop models and skills for future action.

“Even if he is not the actual exploiter, every adult is guilty of being an accomplice if he looks the other way and allows the sexual exploitation of children to take place If there were no demand, it would not be commercially viable to have a supply. This is a simple fact. If there is anyone around you that is helping to create a demand, then take courage and speak out.”

*Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado
Welcome speech at the Second World Congress*



5. UN Special Session On Children - 2002

The Chairperson, Jo de Linde, and the current Executive Director of ECPAT International, Carmen Madrinan, as well as representatives from a number of member organisations attended the UN Special Session for Children which took place in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002. ECPAT USA played a significant role in providing information and coordinating briefing meetings. The Chairperson, speaking on behalf of ECPAT and other NGOs working to end child sexual abuse and exploitation, addressed government representatives during a plenary session.

*“In inviting me to speak today, you are giving voice to the countless number of children around the world who are the victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. I would like to pay tribute to *their* courage and perseverance as survivors and leaders in the fight to stop the inhuman crimes perpetrated against them.”*

Jo de Linde, Chairperson of ECPAT International

ECPAT International with other partners, the Government of Japan, UNICEF and the NGO Group, co-organised a side event to highlight follow-up to the SWC. Queen Silvia of Sweden took part bringing valuable added visibility and advocacy for increasing support within the child rights agenda to combat CSEC.

6. Second ECPAT International Assembly - 2002

At the time of writing, preparations are under way for the second General Assembly of ECPAT International to be held in Bangkok from 4-7 September 2002. ECPAT groups will meet to debate important questions related to the Constitution, policy matters and strategic directions for 2002 to 2005. There will be elections to the Board and, for the first time in ECPAT's history, youth representatives will be standing for election. The Assembly will also be an opportunity to organise training and capacity-building sessions.

Above all, this coming together of the extended ECPAT family will be a rare chance to celebrate the richness and diversity of the network: to strengthen old ties, create new ones, share visions, swap strategies and success stories of campaign materials and tools. The Assembly will help to reinforce the commitment, friendship and partnership that is the hallmark of ECPAT.



New Directions

“We must harness all our energy, strength and determination ...”

ECPAT has learned a great deal from the experience of working together over the years: how cooperation can be an effective strategy in combating CSEC; how networks can mobilise new resources, , build new capacities and change attitudes among partner organisations.

The Second World Congress provided momentum for our work, reinforcing the partnership between ECPAT and the Government of Japan, UNICEF and the NGO Group. Recommitment to the Stockholm Agenda for Action and the Yokohama Global Commitment revived flagging interest in the issue and generated fresh energy. There are clear and creative openings for greater action at regional level. Young people are seen and heard more often thanks to ECPAT's pioneering work in youth participation.

The sexual exploitation of children cannot be dealt with in isolation. It must be set in the context of children's rights as a whole. Since the complex roots of the problem are linked to other humanitarian problems such as poverty, AIDS, armed conflict drug abuse and development issues, To be more effective, ECPAT will need to collaborate more closely with others working in these fields without diverging from/diluting its specific mandate.

The ECPAT Mission Statement clearly states our aims and ambitions. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, statements and action plans from two world congresses and a host of regional consultations point the way. What practical steps is ECPAT going to take?

In October 2001 the first draft of ECPAT's Strategic Directions was written to serve as a guide for action and support of the ECPAT network in the period 2002-2005. The drafting process focused on examining the common platform of work underpinning the ECPAT movement. It includes initiatives under way and new ones that have evolved in response to the shifting nature of CSEC, the unique agendas and mandates of the various ECPAT groups as well as the organised structure of the Secretariat in their supporting role.

ECPAT Priority Action 2002-2005

Quality with Quantity - Strengthening the network

Managing the growth of our own network, balancing growth with consolidation and continuity with change, while seeking new partners and finding fresh entry points to continue the work of combating CSEC.

Why, where, who and when? -

Information, research and communications

ECPAT is the key collector, analyst and disseminator of information about CSEC. It is important to maintain this position and improve on it so that the ECPAT “voice” is strong, unified and reliable.

Young people’s participation - “It’s not impossible...”

Keeping the promise made in Stockholm in 1996, ECPAT has been striving to integrate young people into its work at every level. This dynamic process helps young people to develop skills, fosters leadership and ensures a new generation of activists who will be able to make their views known and their voices heard.

Dealing with demand - Winning the battle, losing the war!

A new initiative to tackle the demand side of commercial sexual exploitation of children will catalyse ECPAT work, involve new partners and reinforce its position as the only international network fighting CSEC.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world,
indeed it’s the only thing
that ever has.”

Quote attributed to Margaret Mead

A happy ending to this history would be if there was no further need for ECPAT, because children are no longer being abused.

ECPAT has come a long way in building up an effective armoury to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children, as this account shows. Today, we are still confronted by that complex and urgent task. The way ahead is difficult and even dangerous for some. If we are to succeed, we must harness our energy, creativity, skills and determination; our resolve strengthened by recalling why ECPAT was created and our promises to children.

Appendices



ECPAT at a Glance

1990

Decision taken to organise an international campaign to be known as End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT)

1991

An office in Bangkok opens

1994

Second Phase of the campaign begins

1996

ECPAT becomes a non governmental organisation and changes its name to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for sexual purposes

1996

World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm)

1999

ECPAT International Assembly (Bangkok), ECPAT Constitution adopted

2000

ECPAT International Conference on Young People's Participation (Manila)

2001

World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama)

2002

UN Special Session On Children (New York)

2002

ECPAT International Assembly (Bangkok)

Awards and Distinctions

2002

Sanlaap (one of four ECPAT affiliates based in India) received an award from the National Commission For Women, Government of India. This award was accepted by Indrani Sinha, founder member of Sanlaap and presently involved as their Secretary and Director of Programmes, in March at a function given in Delhi.



Accepting the award, Kelly Hill said “[I] believe the most powerful tool for change is to inspire others by leading by example”.

Gabriela Fulco (Executive Coordinator of Casa de Los Niños in Uruguay) was among those recognised as “Man or Woman of this Century”. This distinction, promoted by La Asociación de Cultura Oriental, is given to people who are outstanding in the field of social development, politics, sports or culture.

2000

Kelly Hill (Executive Director of Sisters Offering Support, an ECPAT affiliate in the USA) was given the “Do Something BRICK Award” National Grand Prize for helping women escape from commercial sexual exploitation in Hawaii. Earlier she was named by the National Youth Leadership Organisation “Do Something” and Rolling Stone Magazine as one of America’s Best Young Community Leaders.

Under the management of Cléophas Mally, Wao-Afrique (an ECPAT affiliate in Togo) won the Body Shop Human Rights Award. The theme for 2000 was child labour and its role in denying children, particularly girls, a basic education.

Casa Alianza (Honorary partner based in Costa Rica) was presented with the one million dollar Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize for the year 2000. The annual prize is awarded for extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering.

Priti Pakar (founder and Executive Secretary of Prerana, one of four ECPAT affiliates based in India) was offered a Young Achiever Award in the field of social work by the Indo American Society. The Award was presented in Mumbai in December. Prerana helps the children of sex workers escape entry into prostitution and runs an Anti Trafficking Centre.

1999

ECPAT is nominated for Nobel peace prize by Swedish members of parliament.

ECPAT Cebu received the “NGO of the Year Award. This award was given by the Philippine National Police (PNP) for ECPAT Cebu’s “invaluable support and cooperation extended to the PNP in the field of investigation”.

ECPAT/ STOP Japan was awarded the Kato Shidzue Award. This award commemorates the work of Ms Kato, a pioneer in family planning and the women’s liberation movement. ECPAT/ STOP Japan was selected for the award for its foresight and courage in addressing the issue of child sexual exploitation as well as for its contribution to the passing of the anti child prostitution and pornography law in Japan.

ECPAT Australia was awarded the Australian Council for Overseas Aid Human Rights Day in recognition of ECPAT Australia’s “exceptional work on behalf of children’s rights”.

Maureen Seneviratne of ECPAT Sri Lanka (P.E.A.C.E) became a member of the National Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka by special appointment by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka.

1998

ECPAT was chosen by the Rafto Foundation of Norway to receive the Professor Thorolf Rafto Memorial Prize for Human Rights. The selection of ECPAT by the foundation emphasised that children too have human rights. Announcing the prize, the Foundation stated: “It is [our] hope that this prize will give a voice to the voiceless. We hope that this prize will give some strength to the children trying to break the chains of slavery in which they are being held.”

The prize was awarded during an impressive ceremony followed by a torchlight parade through the main street of the city. ECPAT was honoured to receive this prize and vowed to continue working for the rights of children. “Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and they need more protection than adults.”



Receiving the Rafto award were two members of the ECPAT Executive Committee and the Executive Director at that time.

Queen Elizabeth II appointed Ron O'Grady an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to children. A message of congratulations on behalf of ECPAT International was sent, it read: "It is a recognition of your efforts over the years at making the commercial sexual exploitation of children an international issue..."

Anuradha Koirala of Maiti Nepal, an ECPAT affiliate, received the "100 Heroines" award. 100 women are selected for the US\$1000 annual award which recognises those who put themselves at risk to achieve equal rights and freedom for women. In the same year, Maiti Nepal received a visit from His Royal Highness, Charles, the Prince of Wales. In a letter to Ms Koirala, Prince Charles wrote: "... I admire the utterly selfless way in which you have dedicated your life to helping these most unfortunate of girls ..."

1997



The message came to ECPAT through ECPAT Italy: "His Holiness Pope John Paul II would welcome a delegation from ECPAT to recognise their work for children". On March 21, 1997, the then Vice-Chairperson of ECPAT, Ms. Helena Karlén, led a delegation to the Vatican to meet the Pope. In his address, the Pope said:

"...For several years your organisation has worked to eliminate the global plague of child prostitution. This commitment has seen Christians and non-Christians work together not only to combat this horrendous crime but, above all, to defend its victims.

... I must express my esteem and respect for such meritorious work. I must hope that such work is supported with conviction and in a concrete way by the international community, by individual governments, by politicians and social workers, by NGOs and by the whole civil society. ... I encourage ECPAT to keep up the necessary action not only in condemning abuses but also in studying the causes of the phenomenon and the appropriate measures to combat it. ... I express my fervent wish that your appeal will be heard at all levels of society: by politicians and sociologists, by jurists and economists, as well as those responsible for education, health, labour unions and local institutions.

I ask the Lord to give you strength for the work you have embarked upon."

His Holiness Pope John II

ECPAT Italy was awarded the Solidarity Prize by the Italian Voluntary Service Foundation. Every year the Foundation awards the prize (worth approximately \$US 6,000) to select non profit organisations active in Italy. Mara Gattoni of ECPAT Italy received the prize at the ceremony in Rome in 1998.

Gabriela Fulco, Executive Coordinator of Casa de Los Niños in Uruguay, received the “Protagonist Woman” award. This annual award is sponsored by Nuvo, and recognises people who stand out in the field of social development.

1996

ECPAT Australia is given the Australian Human Rights Award.

ECPAT UK received the One World Media Award for the Best Public Information Campaign by an NGO in the United Kingdom.

Helena Karlén of ECPAT Sweden named “Lobbyist of the Year” in Sweden.

1995

ECPAT Australia received an Award for the Most Significant Contribution to the Australian Tourism Industry in that year. They commented that “the award gives us enormous acceptability within the mainstream tourism industry and has provided great exposure.”

1994

PANIAMOR (Costa Rica) won the Prize for Excellence in Media on Behalf of Children, given annually by the International Forum for Child Welfare.

1993

Anti Slavery International (ASI) awarded ECPAT its Anti Slavery Medal. David Ould of ASI said that “the award recognises ECPAT’s success in bringing this issue to the forefront of public attention both in Asia, where children are the victims of sexual abuse by foreigners and in Western countries from where the tourists and business travellers originate.



Bernadette
McMenamin,
ECPAT
Australia

ECPAT France won the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic for this year, a measure of the success of the French group in raising public and political awareness of child prostitution and sex tourism.



Martin Staebler,
receiving the
UFTAA award
on behalf of
ECPAT

At its General Assembly in Malta in November 1993, UFTAA presented ECPAT with its annual Peace Award.

1992

The ICCB awarded the ECPAT national group in Sri Lanka (P.E.A.C.E) their Children's Rights Award. The award was given for the production of a documentary film called "Broken Buds" about the sexual exploitation of boys on the beaches of Sri Lanka.

The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect awarded the C. Henry Kempe prize to PANIAMOR (Costa Rica) for its role in violence prevention. The Foundation was the first organisation in Latin America to receive this distinction.

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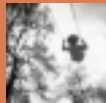
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“Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually.”

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

“We can do no great things; only small
things with great love.”

Mother Teresa



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