ecpat

INTERNATIONAL

A network for children

# END

CHILD PROSTITUTION

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

AND TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

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## What is CSEC?

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a fundamental violation of children's rights. Different forms include child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism and child trafficking for sexual purposes.

## The issue

The International Labour Organisation estimates that there are as many as 1.8 million children exploited in commercial sex industry or pornography worldwide (ILO 2002). We also see that more than one in five people trafficked worldwide are children (UNODC 2009).

The social tolerance for the sexual exploitation of children is also increasing, and the growth in child pornography is another trend that we are monitoring closely. Commercial child pornography has become a multi-billion dollar criminal enterprise. There are more than one million child abuse images on the Internet, and that number is growing. We are also seeing that the severity of the abuse is increasing, and that the children who are targeted are getting younger.

Children require special protection, and by signing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 191 countries agree that children have fundamental rights to live free of sexual exploitation. ECPAT believes that there is a clear 'duty of care' and that everyone shares the responsibility to protect children.

**1.8** million children exploited in prostitution or pornography worldwide

## Who we are

ECPAT International is the leading global network working to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT started 20 years ago as a campaign against child sex tourism and has grown into a network that now represents over 82 local organisations from 75 countries. Today, we fight against child prostitution, child trafficking for sexual purposes and child pornography.

## What we do

ECPAT International and ECPAT country groups encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights, free from all forms of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Through our collaborations, we ask governments to adopt measures to strengthen their child protection policies in compliance with their international obligations.

This includes advocating for policy changes to address gaps in legislation, formulation of national plans of action, as well as effective bilateral and multi-lateral agreements.

We implement capacity-building initiatives for law enforcement, caregivers, policy makers and legislators, and disseminate our training manuals widely.

We develop and provide sound research methodologies to ensure that programming initiatives and campaigns to protect children are evidence-based and appropriate.

# How we work

CSEC is a complex, multifaceted problem that requires a collaborative and strategic approach focusing on **prevention, protection and providing direct care for at-risk children and survivors.**

## Global advocacy

ECPAT International leads the global discussion on CSEC among UN agencies and International NGOs. We have Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We also work with the NGO committee of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and support the development and submission of Alternative Reports to Treaty Bodies.

We played a leading role in the World Congress III (Rio de Janeiro), where 4,300 participants, representing all key stakeholders, committed to a 'Call for Action' to end CSEC.

We are also at the forefront of innovative advocacy practices at global and regional levels. For example, at the Internet Governance Forum we lead the dynamic coalition on Child Online Safety — a coalition of 30 child rights organisations studying ways to better protect children in a rapidly changing onine environment.

ECPAT also advocates with the International telecommunications Union (ITU) to identify risks and vulnerabilities in cyberspace and prioritise child protection policies that govern cyber security. We are an active member of the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative, a programme that aims to tackle tackle cyber security holistically through the cooperation of relevant international actors — NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector.

## Child and youth participation

ECPAT facilitates programming coordinated and implemented by children. We believe that participation is critical in combating CSEC, and integrating child and youth perspective is vital in determining appropriate measures for their protection.

As part of ECPAT's governance structure, the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee is composed of regional youth representatives elected by youth networks working with ECPAT groups around the world. There is also a youth representative on the ECPAT International Board of Trustees.

Our Global Youth Partnership Programme is active in countries **15**

## Capacity-building and education

ECPAT International builds local capacity for NGO groups and grassroots coalitions to fight against CSEC, and provides training resources and advocacy support.

Because we all have a duty of care to protect children from becoming targets of exploitation, ECPAT carries out a number of public education activities and disseminates lessons learned and good practices.

# Some innovative practices

## Monitoring

ECPAT conducts research and publishes widely read country reports that detail the progress and challenges in meeting the international Call to Action set out in the Stockholm Agenda (1996) and the (2008) Rio Declaration.

## Combating child sex tourism

Ending child sex tourism has always been at the heart of the ECPAT movement. We address the problem by implementing initiatives that focus on the importance of education, advocacy and capacity building with the tourism industry, related government agencies, civil society, and NGOs. ECPAT has been recognized for its strong partnership with the tourism private sector and the World Tourism Organisation [UNWTO] and seeks to continue its innovative programmes with these partners as well as expanding work with national Ministries of Tourism and the transportation sector.

## The CODE of conduct

A core component of ECPAT's anti-child sex tourism programme is 'The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism' [The Code/The Child Protection Code www.thecode.org]. Regarded as the most efficient industry tool to combat child sex tourism, it currently represents more than 1,000 companies in approximately 40 countries. As a tourism industry led initiative and a corporate social responsibility tool, members of The Code work with the ECPAT network to mainstream child protection within the industry through creating protection policies, training staff and reporting cases. The Code seeks to go beyond simple awareness raising by empowering tourism professionals to take action and protect children in their communities.

## Enforcement

ECPAT delivers training to law enforcement in several countries to institutionalise child protection approaches in work relating to trafficking identification and prosecution. We also work in close cooperation with local and national law enforcement agencies, as well as Interpol, to monitor child sex abuse cases.

With our in-depth understanding of the online experiences of children, ECPAT shares valuable research and intelligence with partners of the Virtual Global Taskforce and law enforcement agencies, including Interpol, FBI, RCMP, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

## Care and protection

ECPAT continues to develop and disseminate toolkits to build the capacity of organisations to implement effective child-safe programmes. We also offer practical guidelines on assessing risk, and guidance on the development of sound child protection policies.

## Internet and online safety

www.make-IT-safe.net

ECPAT groups work in coalitions with industry partners and the financial sector to protect children online. We also advocate with governments to make hotlines available so that people are able to report illegal activity.

Since 2004, ECPAT has promoted the initiative called 'Make IT Safe' to raise awareness of issues associated with Internet safety. As part of the initiative, children and young people promote a code of conduct with Internet cafes.

## Social reintegration

In 15 countries, ECPAT implements its Global Youth Partnership Programme, which has trained 30,000 caregivers, and reached out to and empowered over three million child survivors and youth at risk in their communities, to reclaim their lives and to advocate for improved child protection policies.

## Global campaigns and behaviour change

Based on a child-rights approach, ECPAT's anti trafficking programme focuses on long term impact and strengthening of the prevention, protection and care services of child survivors and at-risk children. ECPAT also collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders, including providing capacity building for law enforcement, government officials, social workers and other NGOs. Private sector companies can also contribute towards combating child trafficking and ECPAT welcomes such partnerships. An example of this innovative approach is the three year global campaign with The Body Shop on the 'Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People' campaign. Since 2009, more than seven million people from over fifty countries have signed the campaign petition demanding states enforce stronger measures against child sex trafficking. Former US President Bill Clinton called this partnership an 'exemplary approach to addressing a specific global challenge.'

**7** million signed petitions from 50 countries

# Join us in the fight to end child sexual exploitation

visit www.ecpat.net

# DONATE TODAY

ECPAT is a global network of organisations and individuals working together to eliminate child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

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