

## ECPAT INTERNATIONAL'S CALLS TO ACTION: Embargoed until 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 1400 (BKK)

The actions of forty-two states were assessed on a country-by-country basis and ranked accordingly.

The 2012 rankings of states based on their actions to protect children from sex trafficking during the period 2009 – 2012 (earlier rankings can be found at the end of this document).

2012 Rankings			
SLOW PROGRESS	LIMITED MEASURES	SOME PROGRESS	NOTABLE EFFORTS
MALAYSIA SINGAPORE TURKEY	CAMBODIA CZECH REPUBLIC HONG KONG MEXICO PAKISTAN UK	AUSTRALIA AUSTRIA BELGIUM CANADA CYPRUS ESTONIA FINLAND FRANCE GERMANY GREECE INDIA INDONESIA ITALY JAPAN LUXEMBOURG NETHERLANDS NEW ZEALAND NORWAY PORTUGAL RUSSIA SOUTH AFRICA SOUTH KOREA SWEDEN THAILAND USA	DENMARK IRELAND PHILIPPINES POLAND ROMANIA SPAIN SWITZERLAND TAIWAN

Despite the significant progress in recent years, ECPAT International identified **three main areas** where states are failing to protect the children from sex trafficking.

### PROTECTION:

- Most countries are failing to sufficiently criminalise the trafficking of children for sex. In many countries, the legal system fails to protect child victims, instead labelling them as delinquents or even criminals. Whereas, those who profit from child sex trafficking and those who purchase sex from trafficked children rarely face prosecution. In these cases, **child victims of sex trafficking are far more likely to be criminalised than those who are trafficked them for sex**.
- The laws that are in place are often **systematically unenforced**. Most countries **have failed to close legal loopholes that allow sex traffickers of children and those who buy children to act with impunity**.
- **Call to Action:** States need to harmonise their national legislation with **relevant international standards**, such as the *Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography* and the *UN Trafficking Protocol*; they should also place the highest possible priority on ensuring that **all relevant laws are enforced (prosecuting traffickers and buyers of child sex), especially those that protect child victims from criminalisation**. Wherever possible, a specific police unit for children should be created and child-friendly legal procedures be adhered to.

## PREVENTION:

- Most governments do not have a specific **national strategy** to tackle child sex trafficking or other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Most states fail to educate teachers and children on issues specifically related to child sex trafficking.

**Call to Action:** States must create and/or update their **National Plan of Action (NPA) against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. For states that have an anti-human trafficking NPA, they must include a specific focus on child trafficking.** Moreover, all governments must ensure that children have access to information on how best to protect themselves from commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, through school curricula or similar.

## CARE:

- Approximately 13% of the countries reviewed in our global campaign have no services to support victims of human trafficking, including children. Of those countries that do, over three quarters are woefully inadequate.
- In the vast majority of countries there are **no specialised support services** for boys that have been trafficked for sex. Child survivors who do not have access to specialised services are far more likely to be re-trafficked.

**Call to Action:** States must prioritise and strengthen the quality of specialised care and rehabilitation services for all child victims of sex trafficking/commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially for boys.

2009 Rankings			
SLOW PROGRESS	LIMITED MEASURES	SOME PROGRESS	NOTABLE EFFORTS
CAMBODIA HONG KONG CZECH REPUBLIC MEXICO TURKEY MALAYSIA SINGAPORE PAKISTAN	CYPRUS POLAND SWEDEN GERMANY INDONESIA SWEDEN INDIA RUSSIA USA	NORWAY AUSTRALIA ESTONIA SPAIN THAILAND SOUTH AFRICA FRANCE ITALY JAPAN GREECE NETHERLANDS PHILIPPINES SWITZERLAND AUSTRIA FINLAND IRELAND LUXEMBOURG NEW ZEALAND PORTUGAL SOUTH KOREA	BELGIUM ROMANIA TAIWAN DENMARK UK

2010-2011 Rankings			
SLOW PROGRESS	LIMITED MEASURES	SOME PROGRESS	NOTABLE EFFORTS
TURKEY MALAYSIA SINGAPORE CAMBODIA	CZECH REPUBLIC RUSSIA HONG KONG INDONESIA MEXICO PAKISTAN	AUSTRALIA NORWAY PHILIPPINES SWITZERLAND AUSTRIA SOUTH AFRICA SWEDEN THAILAND ESTONIA ITALY JAPAN LUXEMBOURG NETHERLANDS NEW ZEALAND PORTUGAL CYPRUS FINLAND INDIA SOUTH KOREA FRANCE GERMANY GREECE USA SPAIN CANADA UK	DENMARK POLAND ROMANIA TAIWAN IRELAND BELGIUM