



**A network for children**

**END**

**CHILD PROSTITUTION**

**CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

**AND TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN**

**FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES**

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## **What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?**

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a violation of children's fundamental rights. This exploitation can occur through prostitution, pornography (child sexual abuse materials), trafficking, and child marriage.

### **The issue**

The International Labour Organization estimates that there are as many as 1.8 million children sexually exploited through commercial sex industry or pornography worldwide (ILO 2002). It is also believed that nearly 80% of all trafficking worldwide is for sexual exploitation with over 20% of the victims being children (UNODC 2009).

All available evidence indicates that more children than ever before are affected. No country is untouched, and no child is immune. New developments, such as the rise of the Internet and greater access to international travel have heightened the dangers for children and expanded '*demand*'. At the same time, social and economic disparities, poverty and lack of education – combined with weak child protection systems – have fuelled the '*supply*' of children.

The social tolerance for the sexual exploitation of children is increasing. Hundreds of millions of child sexual abuse materials are stored and shared on the Internet. The severity of abuse is increasing, and younger children are being targeted.

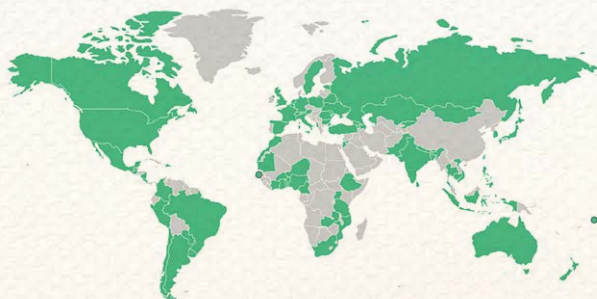
Children require special protection, and by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, states have agreed that children have the fundamental right to live free of sexual exploitation. ECPAT believes that there is a clear '*duty of care*' and that everyone shares the responsibility to protect children.

## Who we are

ECPAT is a global network of civil society organisations and coalitions working together in 80 countries in every region of the world for the elimination of all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT has been leading efforts against the commercial sexual exploitation of children since it began, 25 years ago, as a campaign to end the prostitution of children in tourism in Asia. Today, it is recognised as a strong and cohesive child rights advocacy network speaking on behalf of vulnerable children and child victims of sexual exploitation. The ECPAT International Secretariat is based in Bangkok, Thailand, where the ECPAT movement was born.

ECPAT International has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). Since its establishment, ECPAT has been the recipient of a number of high profile international awards, including the 2012 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award and the 2013 Hilton Humanitarian Prize.



## What we do

ECPAT builds partnerships with child rights defenders across sectors to form a global movement demanding an end to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Through its network and partnerships, ECPAT asks decision-makers to take effective measures to prevent children from being sexually exploited and to protect them. ECPAT's recommendations and technical support are based on sound research and analysis, as well as the direct experience of its members protecting child victims of sexual exploitation.

ECPAT also provides capacity-building for its partners, including child rights organisations and the private sector. Its training materials are widely used.

## How we work

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a complex phenomenon that requires a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, local to global approach. The diversity and scope of its global network allows ECPAT to act at all levels, from shelters for survivors to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child or the Human Rights Council. No matter where, children are always at the heart of its work and ECPAT's first and foremost priority.

### ■ Research and Policy

ECPAT is a knowledge hub, convening and leading cutting-edge research to identify emerging trends. Groundbreaking thematic reports and policy papers support ECPAT's advocacy and networking, such as the 2015 thematic report highlighting how child, forced and early marriage can, in some circumstances, amount to commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT publishes regional overviews, national situational analyses and Country Monitoring Reports (CMRs) that detail the progress and challenges in meeting the international Call to Action set out in the Stockholm Agenda (1996) and the Rio Declaration (2008). ECPAT has published CMRs on over 80 countries. These reports are available on ECPAT's website.

### ■ Advocacy

ECPAT advocates for effective prevention and protection systems, emphasising the need for stronger legal frameworks, better implementation and multi-sector collaboration. ECPAT leads the global discussion on the commercial sexual exploitation of children among UN agencies and international NGOs. ECPAT also seeks to keep child sexual exploitation on the agenda of regional mechanisms and entities, including the African Union, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children, and the Organization of American States.

ECPAT members ensure national and local decision-makers respect and protect children's rights and fulfil their international obligations. This includes, based on the information collected for CMRs, submitting alternative reports to child rights oversight bodies and mechanisms and contributing to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a process that takes stock of the human rights record of all UN Member States under the auspices of the UN Human Rights Council.



ECPAT also works with governments and partners to support the implementation of targets related to the sexual exploitation of children in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the eradication of exploitation of children through pornography and prostitution, which is recognised as one of the worst forms of child labour, and trafficking before 2030.

## ■ Communication and mobilisation

ECPAT informs the public, the media, civil society organisations, faith based organisations and religious communities with the aim of creating global outcry and demand for action.

Campaigning is in ECPAT's DNA and for the past 25 years, the network has rallied and galvanised a global movement demanding concerted, comprehensive and coordinated action to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. In partnership with UNICEF, Child Rights Connect (formerly known as the NGO Group for the Rights of the Child), and national governments, ECPAT has co-organised three World Congresses against the sexual exploitation of children in Stockholm (1996), Yokohama (2001) and Rio de Janeiro (2008).

The adoption of the SDGs in 2015 and the 20th anniversary of the First World Congress in 2016 provide the opportunity for the movement to demand a final push to eradicate the commercial sexual exploitation of children in this generation.

## ■ Child and youth participation

ECPAT works to ensure children and youth, especially survivors of sexual exploitation of children, are provided with the opportunity to be heard and their views taken into consideration. ECPAT puts children's voices at the heart of its work, and believes that child participation and integrating child and youth perspectives is vital in determining appropriate measures for their protection. Because child victims of sexual exploitation are so often silenced by fear and taboo, the ECPAT network seeks to give them a voice in the debates about prevention and protection.

As part of ECPAT's governance, the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee is composed of 22 local children's and youth groups, coordinated by ECPAT members and partners in 20 countries.

## ECPAT's programmes

### ■ Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT)

ECPAT involved over 60 partners to create the first ever Global Study on SECTT, which combines existing national and regional data and trends, expert commentary on specific issues and the results of numerous local consultations. This ambitious project, guided by a multi-stakeholder, High-Level Taskforce, including representatives from government, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector, will present the most comprehensive picture to date of the issue.



Through targeted recommendations, the Global Study seeks to inform and significantly improve the response to a widespread and evolving manifestation of commercial sexual exploitation of children. It will set an ambitious and clear course of action for decision makers. For more information please visit: [www.globalstudysectt.org](http://www.globalstudysectt.org)

The Code (short for “The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism”) is an



**We protect children from sex tourism.**

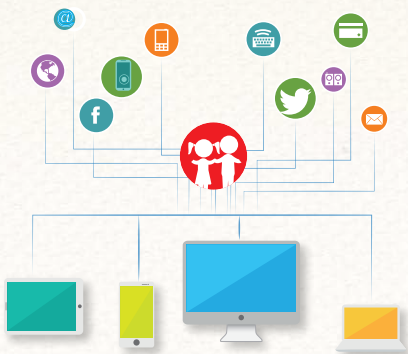
industry-driven responsible tourism initiative with a mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry in order to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. For more Information please visit: <http://www.thecode.org/>

### ■ Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children Online (SECO)

ECPAT is a leading actor, raising awareness of the exponential growth of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online and seeking the deployment of a wider set of policies and technical tools to reduce availability of these materials.

With in-depth understanding of the online experiences of children, ECPAT shares valuable research with partners of the Virtual Global Taskforce and law enforcement agencies, including Interpol. ECPAT is a member of the Global #WePROTECT Advisory Board.

ECPAT trains civil society organisations and law enforcement on victim identification and provides online training for ECPAT network members.



## ■ Prevention and “demand”

ECPAT collaborates with a number of agencies across sectors to examine the contributions and gaps of existing prevention models for reducing the risks of children being sexually exploited.

In particular, ECPAT researches the demand side of commercial sexual exploitation of children, which despite some recent initiatives, remains largely understudied. A comprehensive understanding of the demand for sex with children will inform better responses from decision-makers. ECPAT prioritises prevention approaches that have the potential to shield entire groups of vulnerable children before they are exploited.

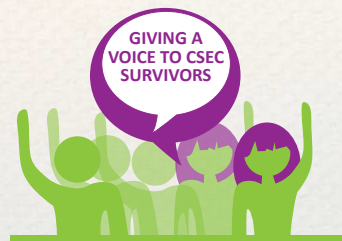
## ■ Terminology and Semantics

ECPAT International and ECPAT Luxembourg coordinate an Inter-agency Terminology and Semantics Project aimed at fostering consensus among stakeholders on terminology to be used in programming, legislation, policy and advocacy regarding the sexual exploitation of children.

## ■ Access to Justice for Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation

ECPAT International’s legal experts work to ensure that victims have access to effective remedies: the right to criminal justice, the right to recovery and reintegration, and the right to compensation.

ECPAT seeks to understand the barriers that prevent victims from accessing justice and involve them in finding solutions through innovative approaches, such as the Victims’ Bill of Rights for children who have been sexually exploited. ECPAT also advocates for national justice and protection systems that respond to the individual needs of victims at national, regional and international levels.





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fight to end child  
sexual exploitation**

visit [www.ecpat.net/donate](http://www.ecpat.net/donate)

**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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