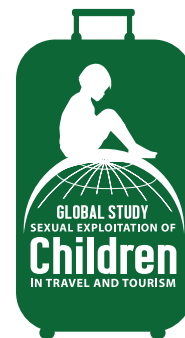


RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GLOBAL STUDY ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM



Recommendations for national governments

The Global Study is a collective effort of 67 partners from across the world and sectors that brings together the largest bank of information ever compiled on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. National governments have a direct responsibility to protect children from SECTT, whether they are countries of country of demand, supply or victimisation.

- Develop and promote reporting systems that allow children and citizens to report incidents without fear
- Ensure that child-sensitive services are available and regulated by quality standards, implemented by knowledgeable, well-trained staff with adequate resources and easily accessible to all children
- Ratify and implement all relevant international child rights instruments and revise national laws accordingly:
 - o Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 2000, and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2002
 - o Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OP3 CRC), 2014
 - o Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, 2000
 - o ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour No.182
 - o The following Council of Europe Conventions:
 - a. Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, CETS No.201, 2007
 - b. Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, CETS No. 197, 2005
 - c. Convention on Cybercrime, CETS No. 185, 2001.
- Ensure that national legal frameworks address SECTT adequately by:
 - o formulating SECTT as separately identifiable crime in national laws
 - o enacting progressive extraterritorial legislation and unconditional extradition laws and defining reoffending as an aggravating circumstance, regardless of whether the crimes were perpetrated abroad or in-country
 - o ensuring that statutory limitations do not apply to child victims of CSEC
 - o adopting an age of consent of 18 years, or ensuring that offences committed against children aged 15 to 18 years old are criminalised when the sexual acts are exploitative (such as prostitution or pornography) or where there has been abuse of a relationship of trust, authority or dependency
 - o criminalising grooming and attempts to procure sex with a minor
 - o excluding SECTT crimes from bail
 - o regulating the obligations of employers to obtain police clearances and implement codes of conduct for national and international employees and volunteers who have direct contact with children
 - o increasing maximum penalties for SECTT-related offences, given their serious impact on child victims
 - o imposing more severe sentences for recidivists who commit sexual offences against children
 - o providing criteria to determine sexual consent between peers, to avoid misunderstanding and clarify non-exploitative situations
 - o making it obligatory to report any suspected sexual exploitation of a child, with strong sanctions for non-compliance; developing protection mechanisms for those who report the crime; accepting reasonable anonymous complaints as sufficient evidence to open an investigation

- Strengthen law enforcement and international cooperation to combat SECTT by:
 - o ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the resources and skills to identify, investigate and respond to SECTT and are able to use child-friendly methods when dealing with child victims and witnesses, and that enforcement is not undermined by corruption or social tolerance for SECTT
 - o enhancing the regular exchange of up to date information about travelling child sex offenders among law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions of countries of demand, supply and victimisation, including greater use of the following tools:
 - INTERPOL 'Green Notice' for convicted sex offenders who are likely to reoffend in other countries
 - denying entry to convicted child sex offenders who are likely to reoffend
 - the development of sex offender registries that comply with international standards on confidentiality and privacy
 - INTERPOL's planned international police clearance system (under development)
 - o investing in the development of analytical tools and new investigative techniques to enable law enforcement to identify perpetrators and rescue victims
 - o deploying police liaison officers in destinations that are popular with travelling child sex offenders, with destination countries facilitating the work of these professionals
 - o cooperation across agencies and borders among the police and judiciary to allow exchange of information for investigations and prosecution of every case where a person is suspected or accused of having sexually exploited a child in another country
- Invest in quality rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of SECTT
- Collect national data and/or build national capacity to develop disaggregated data-gathering and monitoring systems to inform policy and action on SECTT
- Adopt mandatory policies to protect children in new public or private tourism developments, including the obligation to conduct thorough human-rights impact assessments
- Establish government-regulated child protection standards for the tourism industry
- Ensure that the use of volunteers in institutions where children are present is closely regulated through, for example, international police clearances and codes of conduct
- Raise public awareness about SECTT and the sanctions on the crime
- Ensure that law enforcement and justice system personnel understand the importance of SECTT and the particular needs of child victims
- Recognise children as agents of change and encourage their involvement in planning and policy-making related to SECTT
- Invest in child empowering prevention programmes to address the root causes and multiple vulnerabilities that place children, families and communities at risk
- Promoting child protective social norms through community development projects, and the media, including social media
- Create incentives for companies that prioritise child protection
- Fight corruption