ECPAT International ANNUAL REPORT July 2021 – June 2022



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ECPAT International Annual Report

July 2021-June 2022.

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ABOUT US

HOW IT BEGAN

ECPAT's global campaign to end child sexual exploitation was launched in May 1990 when a small group of concerned individuals gathered in Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Organisations from across the globe heard this call to action and joined hands to provide support to combat this heinous problem. Since then, ECPAT has worked to better understand the web of child sexual exploitation through research and pushed for the critical systemic and social changes necessary to eliminate this scourge together with governments, intergovernmental institutions, the private sector, civil society and the general public, including children themselves. ECPAT has organized and co-sponsored three Global Congresses (Stockholm 1996, Yokohama 2001 and Rio De Janeiro 2008) which has firmly placed the issue of child sexual exploitation on the agendas of global leaders and decision-makers

ECPAT's mandate

is to end the sexual exploitation of children. We look at this problem in all its settings, including child sexual exploitation through prostitution; trafficking; early and forced marriage of children, online and in the context of travel and tourism. We work to better understand the problem through research while pushing for the critical systemic and social changes necessary to end the sexual exploitation of children with governments, intergovernmental institutions, the private sector, civil society, and the general public, including with the children themselves.

Violence against children, including sexual exploitation and abuse, affects an estimated one billion children worldwide and ECPAT's research has concluded that no country or region is 'immune'. Sexual violence against children is a growing and increasingly complex crime. It happens to children from all socioeconomic groups, of all educational levels, across all ethnic and cultural groups, and in every geographic region.

To end these crimes, knowledge, and evidence must be of the highest possible quality to inform our decisions and guide targeted action and activities. ECPAT continues to conduct primary research, as well as bringing together information from various sectors and countries around the world, to form a reliable and professional range of academic sources.

ECPAT also offers information for children to understand their rights, gain access justice, and find medical, psychological, and social support services in case they are affected by sexual exploitation and abuse. We connect adult survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation to work together to heal as a global community of advocates.

With a membership of 122 civil society organisations in 104 countries, ECPAT is the world's largest influencing network dedicated to ending the sexual exploitation of children.

We push for the critical systemic and social changes necessary to end the sexual exploitation of children and work with governments, intergovernmental institutions, the private sector, civil society, and the general public, to ensure that the voices of children, their rights, and their needs, are heard and reflected in society.

We look to address the sexual exploitation of children in all its settings, including child sexual exploitation through prostitution ; trafficking; child early and forced marriage, online and in the context of travel and tourism. In 2021, we laid down the blueprints for an innovative path towards a world where all children are free from sexual exploitation. Read the 2021–2025 ECPAT Strategic Framework here.

We are pleased to share with you this year's Annual Report, highlighting ECPAT's accomplishments.



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ever-growing digitisation of social spaces has led to a rise of children being exposed to sexual exploitation and abuse. We must stand against exploitative systems, patterns, and social norms that continue to deny children access to their basic human rights. We cannot look away and ignore the issues that underpin why children do not disclose their abuse, only confide in each other, mistrusting that the adults around them will hold criminals accountable and help them.

Evidence from our primary research in Asia and Africa shows that we largely fail to support the rights of girls and boys who are sexually exploited. With the data in hand, we know what we must do. We must move to an era of implementation where we ensure that policies, commitments, and the law reaches all children and their communities.

In the one year since our last annual report, the world has been home to the continued Covid-19 crisis, conflicts and wars, climate related disasters, mass displacement of people, and numerous humanitarian crises, all of which have significantly contributed to further exposing vulnerable children to trafficking, child marriage, and sexual exploitation. That is why, as the world's largest influencing network dedicated to on ending the sexual exploitation of children, we have worked together to call for governments to put children's rights at the forefront of their policies and actions.

Urging the travel and tourism industry to maintain or make child protection a key priority as the sector recovers.

The socio-economic vulnerability of children, in particular in the countries that have traditionally depended on income from tourism, have dramatically increased as the result of COVID-19 pandemic, political instabilities, wars, natural disasters and emergencies. At the same time, evolving trends in the travel and tourism industry, such as domestic, experiential and community travel, including voluntourism, along with an increasing use of sharing-economy practices, technology and seamless travel experiences, serve as new avenues for offenders to misuse the industry's infrastructure and services across supply chains to groom, abuse and sexually exploit children. This year, ECPAT had called upon governments to address the risk of sexual exploitation of children in the context of voluntourism, and urges business to follow The Code Volunturism policy to protect children. While over the recent years, there have been new developments around human rights and businesses and due diligence laws, these are mainly reflecting on the responsibilities of big companies to address child rights violations in their direct supply chains, while neglecting the informal supply chain in the destinations. In absence of obligatory regulations, The Code offers support to companies to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, including through the risk assessment. It's urgent to strengthen the protection of and respect of children's rights that are affected by negative impacts of business operations, and more action is needed from the governments to improve and enforce law and policies to protect children in travel and tourism sector. This proactive approach towards sustainable tourism that prioritises child protection as it "builds back better" is also increasingly requested and expected from international travellers.

ECPAT recognises that girls continue to account for the majority of the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. These crimes exist across many societies because of the prevalence of profoundly discriminatory patterns of patriarchalism and toxic masculinity. However, our Global Boys initiative and reports have provided clear evidence that, in the fight against sexual exploitation, we cannot assume that boys will also be equally protected, with the same approach used to reach out to girls. ECPAT is determined to use all of the knowledge, evidence, and data that we have about the sexual exploitation of boys, to focus on adapting our approaches, prevention, and response strategies to the different requirements of boys.

Advancing through collaboration

Despite all of these challenges, there are many more reasons to remain hopeful. A steady stream of governmental organisations and political groups are committing to vital plans of actions, policies, legislations, strategies, and resource allocations, that take into account the seriousness of the problem. We're delighted to see the children themselves, their families, and entire communities collaboratively engaging to tackling this issue. Across our global network and beyond, it is exciting to witness the building of robust support mechanisms, that address how social norms, stigma, and the distrust of the current systems are detrimental to the safety of children. There are a number of emerging engaged public-private partnerships that are paving the way to champion the integration of human rights principles with children's rights approaches, in a way that can still see the private sector thrive globally.

As a network of civil society organisations, ECPAT is committed to amplifying the voice of marginalised populations and grass-root movements to influence decision-makers, making them accountable on their impact of their actions on the rights of the child, to live a life free from exploitation and abuse. There is hope. And luckily, at the forefront of ending the sexual exploitation of children, we get to see and hear about it all the time. All of these changes mean a change in hearts and minds. Fortunately, more are speaking up, more are taking action. That is why we continue our work and why we believe that we all have our part to play in keeping children safe, and ensuring that they have a life free from sexual exploitation.



Mr. Guillaume Landry Executive Director, ECPAT International

STRENGTHENING THE ECPAT NETWORK

N'

Over the last year, as a network, we had to re-evaluate our tools, practices, and approaches for dealing with the sexual exploitation of children, and adapt to the new risks that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Find out how we fared. Read our previous Annual Report:

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

It's almost unbelievable to imagine that time last year, lockdown measures forced 83% of ECPAT's member to either fully or partly close their physical offices. This meant that all of our members had to adapt their services and offerings to online platforms, but still maintain the same quality and care. In doing so, not only did we discover new and innovative ways to reach vulnerable children, but we've also uncovered ways through which children were being targeted by criminals.

This Annual Report cannot do justice to the scale of this year's accomplishments, the things we have learned, or the ways we have grown as a global membership. However, it serves as a testament to the number of collective and individual achievements of our work across the world over the previous year. We encourage you to get to know our members:



"We owe it to children everywhere to ensure that they have a childhood free from sexual abuse and exploitation. The unique structure of the ECPAT network, which is deeply embedded in local contexts, is designed to collectively push for systemic and societal change in this regard and to reach the critical public and private decision makers on national, regional, and at the global level."

Thomas Muller, Director of Network Development

GLOBAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

How are we measuring global progress toward ending child sexual exploitation? Around the world, each country tackles this issue through their own sovereign laws, policies, and measures. However, it is oftentimes difficult to assess just how effective these diverse measures are.

What are the Global Progress Indicators (GPIs)?

The sexual exploitation of children is a global issue. No country is immune. Around the world, each country tackles this issue through their own sovereign laws, policies, and measures. However, it is oftentimes difficult to assess just how effective these diverse measures are.

How can we measure global progress toward ending child sexual exploitation?

ECPAT's research team developed the Global Progress Indicators (GPI) as a centralised hub for monitoring and measuring national responses to child sexual exploitation. Visualised as an interactive world map, the GPI currently comprises 9 indicators—ranging from laws to measures—that ECPAT has established as essential to the protection of children.

Why do we need Global Progress Indicators?

Collaboration and cooperation are essential to creating positive change on a global scale. With no clear way to measure current efforts to address child sexual exploitation, the GPIs provide key stakeholders such as civil society groups, governments, and child protection professionals, with:



Think of the GPIs as a compass: a guide showing us where we need to be, and what needs to be done to end child sexual exploitation globally.

What are the current Global Progress Indicators ECPAT has carefully selected 9 clearly defined and measurable aspects of any national response towards protecting children. These include: Extraterritoriality Clear legal Appropriate age of definitions of and extradition consent laws of 18 years provisions for the Child Sexual old for both males and prosecution of Abuse Material females, with a **close**that are aligned in-age exemption (up to sexual exploitation with international of children 3 years) for consensual standards sexual relationships between adolescents. Establishing at Strict implementation Ensuring of criminal background international least one **Child Advocacy** and regional checks for positions that involve or commitments Centre in every country facilitate direct contact related to sexual exploitation of with children children Establishing Publicly available Dedicated national national data sets police units that child protection standards for on child sexual include sexual exploitation cases exploitation of the travel and children crimes in tourism industry their mandate

How are ECPAT members involved?

The GPIs also allow ECPAT members to continue to play their vital role in lobbying for more robust child protection policies in their countries, monitoring government actions, and ensuring up-to-date information is reflected on the GPI map. That is why feedback on the current GPI's effectiveness and suggestions for new indicators is also a key focus of this project.

As the sexual exploitation of children continues to evolve into various forms, collaboration and cooperation between all stakeholders is essential to enhancing the protection of children worldwide.

Appropriate age of consent laws

Setting the legally defined age at which a person is considered mature enough to agree to sexual activity to 18 years for both males and females. Countries should also set a close in age exemption (up to 3 years) for consensual sexual relationships between adolescents.

Extraterritoriality and extradition provisions for the prosecution of sexual exploitation of children

In cases of child sexual exploitation overseas, countries should have appropriate extraterritoriality and extradition provisions that allow it to exercise authority beyond its territorial limits, and to allow for an offender to be returned by the State where the offender is found to the country where an offence was committed to face prosecution and/or punishment.

Clear legal definitions of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)

Older terms such as 'child pornography' are often misleading and undermines the gravity of these crimes. To be fully comprehensive, the definition of child sexual abuse material should

- Be directly in line with international standards
- Cover any type of visual and audio material
- Cover material depicting a person appearing to be a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct
- Cover computer/digitally generated child sexual abuse material including realistic images of non-existent children

Strict implementation of criminal background checks

Criminal background checks should be required by law for every national and non-national individual working in positions that involve or facilitate direct contact with children as a requirement of their job, in both public and private settings.

Ensuring international and regional commitments related to sexual exploitation of children

Countries should ratify and implemented key international and regional legal instruments or protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation, including:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Establishing Child Advocacy Centres

A Child Advocacy Center primarily aims to reduce the re-traumatisation of children by limiting how many times they have to speak about their traumatic experience by coordinating the professionals who may need to have contact with the child. ECPAT recommendations that at least one Child Advocacy Centre should be established in every country.



Dedicated national police units that include sexual exploitation of children crimes in their mandate

States should establish and fund dedicated police units that specifically include in their mandate to investigate crimes of child sexual exploitation occurring within both national and extra-territorial jurisdictions.

Establishing child protection standards for the travel and tourism industry

Businesses in the travel and tourism industry are in a unique position to identify the most vulnerable and to prevent the crime of sexual exploitation of children. Clear legal obligations should be set for travel and tourism companies to take an active role in eradicating these crimes.

Publicly available national data sets on child sexual exploitation cases

National level data is needed to effectively direct efforts to address the sexual exploitation of children. Such data may inform prevention efforts, legal and policy development for the punishment of perpetrators, and the provision of quality support services for children who have experienced sexual exploitation.

MEMBER STORIES

Photo by antonius-ferret-5275808 @ pexels



The Independent Living Project is ensuring that children who have experienced sexual exploitation in Taiwan are able to find more than just their voice.

Since 2004, ECPAT Taiwan, through the Independent Living Project, has ensured accommodation, career and study support, economic independence training, trauma recovery support, and social participation development for child victims of sexual exploitation.

"I now know that what happened to me doesn't define me. I can be creative—I can be anything I want to be"

Cassie, Participant

Cassie's story

Cassie (name changed for privacy purposes) lacks confidence. She often questions herself or get nervous when meeting new people. Her childhood was marred by emotional neglect. So, when someone reached out to her online and started grooming her, it shattered her trust in people. Click here to read more.

Through the Independent Living Project, Cassie has chosen to learn how to make coloured-glaze glassware. The technical task of sculpting glass has opened up her world to new possibilities. She is not only able to learn a trade but also develop social skills. Cassie has really taken to this and expresses her unique style and colour during practice. She has created countless amazing glass sculptures. As time has gone by, she has finally gotten used to opening up and trusting people. Learn more about the Independent Living Project.



ECPAT Taiwan and Meta join forces to advance the discussion around child sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse

In August 2021, ECPAT Taiwan and the online social networking goliath, Meta, joined forces to promote the importance of online safety through the board game Cyber Humans. The idea for the game came from the children who participated in the Child Forum on Digital Citizenship - #PrivacyMatters:

Players can better understand online issues, including online grooming, online stalking and harassment, sextortion, and internet fraud. Players of the game can learn how to protect themselves in a digital environment. ECPAT Taiwan has received countless positive feedbacks from children, teachers, and NGO members:



"It is a good way to teach children about online safety through a board game. Through this game, children can understand the risks and be more alert in the online world; they now know how to protect themselves and not harm others."

Teacher

ABOUT ECPAT TAIWAN

Since 1994, ECPAT Taiwan works to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking, as well as championing child rights and online safety by reporting child sexual abuse material online, providing support to sexually exploited children, increasing youth participation and the general promotion of child welfare. Main activities include the promotion of policy and legal reforms, social education, rehabilitation programs and promoting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the hope of raising awareness about the issue. Click here to learn more about ECPAT Taiwan, our research in the region, and how they work to make the lives of children free from child sexual exploitation and abuse.

INDONESIA

The AMAN PROJECT promotes digital literacy between children and adolescents

In 2020, ECPAT Indonesia conducted a survey on 1203 respondents from children aged 6 to 17 years and found that most of the children faced negative experiences online such as grooming and receiving unwanted sexual materials. With so many crimes happening on the Internet, ECPAT Indonesia aims to increase the capacity of children, young people, and parents around digital literacy for child safety online.

To date, ECPAT Indonesia has collaborated with Meta, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Ministry of Communication and Information, and the National Digital Literacy Movement to prevent the online sexual exploitation of children.

So far more than 600 children and young people aged 13-24 in 12 cities have been trained on digital literacy and safety online, next to 133 adult participants spacing from child protection activists, village officials, teachers, principals, and organizations officers that work with children. Children and young people have been trained to become peer educators too. Known as the 'AMAN Warriors' they promote digital literacy and prevention of child sexual abuse online in their communities. Find out more about the AMAN project.



"With the training provided by ECPAT Indonesia, I learned how to be more confidence to speak in front of many people, how to be a peer educator, how to facilitation online training, and how to strengthen the voice of children like me. And because of that, I decided to become an AMAN Warrior and raise awareness about child protection online."

AMAN Warrior

The importance of child participation

Child participants in the AMAN project have created videos, jingles, and infographics that were published for National Children's Day and Safer Internet Day. ECPAT Indonesia also worked with 118 organizations involved in online child protection and the content produced by the child participants was shared on their platforms, reaching up to 4 million social media users. Watch the digital materials produced by children in Indonesia for Safer Internet Day and National Children's Day 2022. Follow ECPAT Indonesia on Instagram.



Through the Down to Zero: Building Back Better program ECPAT Indonesia is advocating for countering child sexual abuse and exploitation in the country



In May 2022, ECPAT Indonesia participated in the Child Protection National Conference as the culmination of the Down to Zero: Building Back Better program. The purpose of the program was to strengthen and tighten the advocacy capacity of the Indonesian government to eradicate child sexual exploitation in the country.

Ahead of the Child Participation National Conference, ECPAT Indonesia coordinated a call for papers on child sexual exploitation, online child abuse, and the economic exploitation of children in Indonesia. This led to 8 scientific journals and 31 papers being published. Children

and young people were also able to provide their own recommendations to the discussions with the government, through child and youth consultations activities. In those activities, we invited 31 organization child and youth groups in Indonesia with more than 50 participants.

The conference resulted in the production of several recommendations coming from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Ministry for Human Development and Culture, Cybercrime Police Headquarters officers, academics from several National Indonesian Universities, digital private sector representatives such as Meta, start-ups, the Association of Indonesian Internet Service Providers (APPJI), children and young people representatives, and local to national NGOs concerned with the issue of child sexual exploitation.

Recommendations for the Indonesian government to tackle child sexual abuse:

- To ensure more collaboration between all parties including the private sector to protect children at local and regional levels;
- To ensure online service providers and social media platforms strengthen their security systems in order to protect children online;
- To enhance research about cybercrimes aimed at improving child protection policies online;
- Clear law enforcement procedures are needed to prevent child sexual exploitation;
- Parents and caregivers must be the target of more trainings that facilitate them understanding the language used by children online as well as for using parental control applications and counselling;
- Tourism companies need to actively contribute to child protection in tourism;
- The interests of children and their rights must remain a priority.

Find out more about the National Conference on Child Protection

ABOUT ECPAT INDONESIA

ECPAT Indonesia is a national network of twenty-two member organizations and two individuals present in 11 provinces. ECPAT Indonesia is actively involved in the implementation of initiatives that address key issues concerning children rights and child safety from child sexual abuse and exploitation at national and regional levels. The network focuses on eliminating child sexual exploitation and abuse in Indonesia.

Click here to learn more about ECPAT Indonesia, our research in the region, and how they work to make the lives of children free from child sexual exploitation and abuse.

TANZANIA

What is the KUWAZA Project?

KUWAZA, Swahili for Kuzuia Udhalilishaji wa Watoto Zanzibar (Prevention of Violence Against Children in Zanzibar in English) is a project implemented in Unguja, Zanzibar, to prevent sexual, emotional, and physical violence against children. KUWAZA partners, namely C-Sema, Pathfinder International, Action Aid Tanzania, and International Center for Research on Women work to challenge the social norms that leave children vulnerable to sexual exploitation, while also strengthening prevention and response structures to child sexual abuse and exploitation in the region.

KUWAZA project has, to date, contributed to significant milestones regarding prevention of violence against children in the Island. The project has had lasting influence on laws and policies such as Zanzibar's National Plan of Action for Ending Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWAC 2017 - 2022), which has institutionalised prevention and response procedures to child sexual exploitation in the country. n 2016 the legal age of marriage was changed from 14 to 18 years old.

KUWAZA partners in collaboration with other stakeholders, supported the creation of response agencies and professional support services such as One-Stop Centers, Shehia Committees (local government authority jurisdictions), and Police Gender Desks. The project also contributed to the development of a policy framework for child protection in Zanzibar where a multi-sectoral prevention system has been established in collaboration with judicial, educational, health, and local government stakeholders. Additionally, KUWAZA was instrumental in the creation of a training curriculum which aims to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation prevention among children and parents in the region, while also cultivating key relationships with target communities (including local and religious leaders, Parents and teachers).

Child sexual exploitation and abuse is sadly too common in Zanzibar

A KUWAZA survey conducted in 2015 documented that, out of 161 children who reported to have experienced violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, 61% of girls and 39% of boys experienced sexual violence. According to the survey, children reported that the majority of perpetrators were relatives living with them or family neighbours.

"Strategic and focused interventions that inspire behavioural change amongst families and communities are needed to protect children from child sexual abuse and exploitation in Zanzibar. KUWAZA Project aims at strengthening the capacities of communities to prevent child sexual exploitation in the region".

KUWAZA Partners – Zanzibar

KUWAZA – Phase III: strategic prevention of the sexual violence against children aged 7-14 in Unguja

KUWAZA – is now in its third phase (Phase III), which started in April 2021 and aims to reduce child sexual abuse and exploitation in Unguja. Phase III of the project focuses on establishing key relationships with parents, teachers, religious leaders, existing child advocates, and other community members to ensure effective child sexual abuse prevention. The final aim is to dismantle a culture of shame and silence, raise awareness of how children can report, and enhance behavioural changes among individuals and communities in Zanzibar to ensure that they can spot the signs of child exploitation and prevent child sexual abuse crimes.

KUWAZA phase three is informed by KUWAZA's mid-term evaluation (MTE) which reported limited information on the prevention of child sexual violence in the country. Interviews from Unguja revealed high levels of community concern around sexual violence against children. Research around child sexual abuse-specific interventions conducted in 2020 as part of the KUWAZA phase III planning revealed no evidence-based interventions with strategic focus on sexual violence against children.

The project actors are committed to ensuring efficient prevention of child sexual abuse by changing social norms and behaviours among adults who have close proximity to children aged 7–14, by shifting social norms while dismantling taboos around child sexual exploitation, and by raising awareness on the issue. Furthermore, the project aims at linking families to frontline social support services, a practice which has been successfully employed in Tanzania and shows great potential in the Zanzibar region.

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

C-Sema works to enhance children's voices and rights in Tanzania and the autonomous region of Zanzibar. 'Sema' is a Swahili for the English word 'speak' and represents the organization's overall mission of responding to children in need of care and protection while also voicing their concerns to policy and decision-makers.

ECPAT member Tanzania actively ensures all parents are informed about their roles and responsibilities towards children's rights, all children feel free to express themselves, and communities act proactively for healthy child development in the country. C-Sema also runs the Tanzanian National Child Helpline (116) – in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania in both Mainland and Zanzibar. Click here to learn more about C-SEMA Tanzania, our research in the region, and how they work to make the lives of children free from child sexual exploitation and abuse. Visit C-SEMA Tanzania's website to learn more about their activities. Follow @SemaTanzania on Twitter to stay updated with the KUWAZA project developments in the region and beyond. Follow the hashtag #Malezi to learn about child rights in Tanzania and Zanzibar.

THAILAND

Child participation is essential to counter child sexual exploitation

In partnership with the Down to Zero alliance, the Youth Voice for Change Project aims to strengthen children's voices and build awareness around preventive measures to end child sexual exploitation online. Child participants in the project are able to learn about human rights, human trafficking, and what they can do to prevent being sexually exploited while also developing efficient communication skills.

Armed with new skills and information, the youth groups are able to actively plan their own awareness-raising initiatives. Using different communication channels and styles, they are able to share their voices and become agents of change for other children. One such example led to the creation of numerous online articles, blogs, and video clips for public awareness raising. The materials produced delved into their perspectives on social issues such as human rights, gender inequality, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and early pregnancies.

A community-level child protection committee, targeting teachers and students across Thailand, was also established.

"As a youth leader I have developed my self-esteem, positive thinking, cognitive development and learned how to be a good leader. As a peer supporter, my role was to pass on the knowledge that I gained to others."

A child advocate, Chiang Rai province, Thailand

ECPAT Foundation received the award for Outstanding Organization for Preventing Human Trafficking

On 6 June 2022, during the "No Victims No Tears" National Anti-Trafficking Day, ECPAT Foundation received the Outstanding Organization for Preventing Human Trafficking award from the Thai Prime Minister for the organisations commitment and dedication to preventing the trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

The importance of child protection policies and child-centred approaches

ECPAT Foundation works, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizational networks, to increase the capacity and efficiency of multidisciplinary teams and law enforcement agencies on child victim centred approaches in Thailand.

In 2021-2022 ECPAT Foundation focused on training professionals working with children on issues related to child protection and the importance of establishing child protection and safeguarding policies at organisation level. The Foundation developed a curriculum on the Participation of Children in Child Safeguarding Policy, with 500 printed copies made available for dissemination across other interested organisations in the country.

Strengthening the capacity building of governmental and private children's homes in Thailand

ECPAT Foundation also works on the Protecting and Empowering Children from Sexual Exploitation project, which aims at strengthening the capacitybuilding efforts of private and governmental children's homes - residential institutions or welfare houses for the care and education of orphans/child victims of sexual violence.

ECPAT Foundation's team provide training to help organisations in the country to produce child protection policies and procedures (CPPPs) that prioritize children's experiences. Additionally, they provide training to children on how to protect themselves from sexual exploitation and on channels for reporting.



Ketsanee Chantrakul, Program Manager at ECPAT Foundation said "when children express their opinions and share their ideas over decisions that affect their lives, they are more likely to speak up when their rights are being violated or their safety is in danger".

The team has recently developed a monitoring tool for child protection policy implementation, adopted by the Chiang Rai Provincial Sub-committee on Child Protection to monitor an operation of children's homes in the province. The project also assisted six children's homes and three organisations to raise their existing child safeguarding policy to that of international standards.

"Children must be given the opportunity to have a say over their own safety"

Ketsanee Chantrakul, ECPAT Foundation

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Established in 1996, ECPAT Foundation works to promote child participation in public discussions on child protection systems in Thailand. During 2017-2021, ECPAT Foundation has provided trainings to at least 9,500 children and youth advocates across Thailand, to increase their knowledge and understanding of the threats and dangers of child sexual abuse. Learning how to spot the signs is the first step for children to recognise these crimes and report them to trusted adults and the law enforcement. Children are welcomed and supported to become agents of change and influence policies, challenge societal stereotypes, and assist other victims of child sexual abuse.

In 2022, ECPAT Foundation, in collaboration with the Childline organisation and the Hug Foundation, partnered with Twitter to co-organise key awareness-raising events to protect children from sexual exploitation on Safer Internet Day 2022 and International Women's Day 2022. ECPAT Foundation collaborated with Twitter to develop the hashtag #ThereIsHelp in Thailand to encourage young people at risk of sexual abuse, trafficking or harassment to reach out to ECPAT Foundation (@EcpatFoundation) for help. Visit the ECPAT Foundation Twitter page. Click here to learn more about ECPAT Thailand Foundation, our research in the region, and how they work to make the lives of children free from child sexual exploitation and abuse.

COSTA RICA

Protecting children from online child sexual exploitation in Costa Rica

Last year, Fundación Paniamor worked to implement the Código e-mentores initiative, collaborating with major Internet providers present in the country as well as private-sector companies, including IBM and Microsoft, to prevent the online abuse and sexual exploitation of children in Costa Rica.

The **Código e-mentores** is a code of conduct that enables online service providers and tech companies to develop selfmonitoring tools to detect, remove, and report child sexual abuse materials and crimes that happen online. Currently, Fundación Paniamor is focusing on developing a guide of protocols to be applied by each tech company to ensure child safety online. Learn more about Código e-mentores initiative – watch the interview to Oscar Valverde, Executive Director at Fundación Paniamor (ESP)





Costa Rica's society. Click here to find out how you can support this initiative.

What is Conectate Seguro? And how are they teaching children how to spot the signs of sexual exploitation and abuse?

In alliance with TIGO Costa Rica and Fundación Real Madrid, Fundación Paniamor launched Conectate **Seguro project,** aimed at informing children and young people about the threats and preventive measures to protect themselves from child sexual abuse and violence.



Seventy-two children between ages 5 and 18 years from vulnerable areas in the country took part in the project. Participants attended training workshops on online safety and responsible platforms devices usage. The project has been incredibly successful and was also proposed for the public school system, where more than 650 participants were able to attend a session. Learnmore about Contacto Seguro. Listen directly to the voices of child participants.

Safer Internet Day: Towards ending online child sexual exploitation in Costa Rica

On February 8th 2022, on International Safer Internet Day, Código e-mentores organisations and Fundación Paniamor organized the webinar "Symbolic violence on social media and its contribution to the reinforcement of male domination relations" in alliance with MICITT, IMAS and Infocom.

Click to explore Fundaciòn Paniamor's full list of webinars and learn more about online child sexual exploitation in Costa Rica.



ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Fundación PANIAMOR based in Costa Rica works to end violence against children raise awareness about the importance of children's rights in the country. Fundación PANIAMOR works together with other local organisations to develop relevant, effective, and evidence-based models to be adopted as good practices by the State of Costa Rica. The organisation's aim is to strengthen the country's capacity to respond to violence and exclusion prevalent in the lives of children in Costa Rica. Click here to learn more about ECPAT Costa Rica, our research in the region, and how they work to make the lives of children free from child sexual exploitation and abuse.

WHAT WE DO

Photo by Happy Pixels @ Pixels

INTERNATIONAL DAYS AND KEY EVENTS

We collaborated on International Days with a whole host of civil society organisations and other nonprofits, in our mission to end child sexual exploitation. This has allowed us to join forces, as we have participated in high-level meetings, key events, and calls to action to improve child protection, and show our support for worldwide movements.



ECPAT STORIES HIGHLIGHTS

From the impacts of the travel and tourism sector on child sexual exploitation to the role that gender norms play when it comes to child sexual abuse, to why we need legal tools to ensure child protection and online child safety. Bringing together the countless voices of our global membership is key for us. During the year, we have collected and shared stories that highlight our projects as well as that of our members.

For instance, in the last year, ECPAT brought the topic of child protection in travel and tourism to the discussion on sustainable travel and tourism development at the World Travel and Tourism (WTTC) Summit; we were part of a consortium of influential stakeholder which presented a letter to Apple; and held governments and officials in the European Union Parliament accountable on critical decisions regarding legislative reforms. We have covered much ground through Disrupting Harm, a multi-country project across the major regions of the globe, to show gaps in legislation, provide recommendations, and make advances on protection of children online. Equally important, recognizing that limited work was being done to address sexual exploitation of boys, through The Global Boys Initiative, we are taking a central role in bringing their voices and experiences to a larger audience. Click here to find out more

Stories

ECPAT International is a global network of organisations in over 100 countries. These are the stories from our members who are all working tirelessly to end all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of children Learn more about what we do, share our stories, and stay informed.



Together with PEaCE/ ECPAT Sri Lanka, The Global Boys Sri Lanka report, the third under the Global Boys Initiative, follows South Korea, and Thailand and explores the factors that puts Sri Lankan boys at risk of sexual exploitation.

Click here to find out more



As the travel and tourism industry rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting children must be at the forefront of all of our minds. The solution—some forms of voluntourism must be regulated in order to keep children safe.

Click here to find out more



The number of child sexual abuse material found online had increased from 1 million in 2014 to over 20 million in 2021. Digital platforms can and should ensure online privacy while scanning for illegal child sexual abuse material and adopt artificial intelligence while developing messaging platforms with safety by design standards.

Click here to find out about why we are advocating for legislative change in the EU.

FINANCIALS AND MAJOR DONATIONS

Every gift, grant and donation matters. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, from individuals to foundations to governments, we can work on giving children and young people a chance to achieve their full potential and empower healthy communities. We take this opportunity to once again thank our donors for their support and belief in the ECPAT vision. and for standing in solidarity with us in ending the sexual exploitation of children.



Will you support ECPAT to end the sexual exploitation of children?

Children are entitled to a childhood free from exploitation, abuse, and neglect. That is why we continue to call for governments and those in power to ensure that their rights are being upheld. As the world's largest influencing dedicated to ending the sexual exploitation of children, with organisations in over 104 countries, our members span the globe and work tirelessly to protect children from child sexual abuse. Click here to map our impact.

During holiday season, society's focus tends to shift towards celebrations. Interest in spotting and reporting exploitative behaviours wanes and this can be particularly challenging for children who are victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse, as they are forced to stay in close contact with their abusers.

Thank you to everyone who supported our projects and campaigns last year through making a donation, sharing our mission, and speaking up against child sexual abuse crimes among holidays and private celebrations. In 2021-2022, ECPAT's online supporters were more than 140.

"ECPAT supported us and provided us with opportunities to engage in events, so that we have a chance to give our voices and share our opinions."

Youth, ECPAT Thailand

PODCAST AND FEATURES

Ending the Silence on Child Sexual Exploitation is a podcast by ECPAT International. In our podcasts, we share what we know about emerging issues, what is being done to tackle the problems, how children are affected around the world, and what you can do to support the fight to eliminate this crime. Episodes produced this year feature ECPAT's research team sharing insights from the Global Boys Initiative: South Korea and Hungary reports, as well as the ECPAT Country Overviews on Peru, India, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ECPAT's Executive Director joined Denver Frederick, host of The Business of Giving Podcast, in a discussion on ECPAT's work, the impact of our members, and the global trends ECPAT's research has uncovered in the field of child sexual exploitation.

Finally, we're thrilled to announce the launch of a new mini-series on She Leads—a programme dedicated to amplifying the voices of girls and young women in decision-making environments. Launching late 2022.



- ECOs
- Feature
- She leads page
- Listen to more episodes

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (OCSEA)

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the expansion and diversification of children's digital lives. It was estimated that, in 2021, almost 60% of the world's population were connected to the internet. Children remain the most eager adopters of the new technologies with an estimated one in three internet users being below 18 years of age. Concurrently, there has been an increase and expansion of the ways that technology can be used by adults to harm children, as well as by children and adolescents to harm other children. ECPAT first began to understand the challenge of Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) in the late1990s and has been working on the issue ever since. Today, as Internet access and technology has evolved beyond recognition and continues to evolve, ECPAT works more than ever to address this challenge. Here are some highlights from this year of two of our key projects dedicated to ending OCSE, Project Beacon and Disrupting Harm.

Disrupting Harm

Disrupting Harm is a multifaceted research project on online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Funded by the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, ECPAT International leading this unique collaboration with INTERPOL and the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, assesses the context, threat, and children's perspectives of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 13 countries in Southeast Asia and Eastern and Southern Africa. Disrupting Harm will also highlight the current response to OCSE and issue clear recommendations in both regions, as well as individually for Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam. Click to find out more.



Project Beacon



Developed as a response to the concern regarding the changes to European policy around digital rights in late 2020, Project Beacon is a special project that was formed to ensure tackling child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) remains a priority for EU policymakers, despite the numerous changes in privacy legislation. Supported by the Oak Foundation, and implemented by ECPAT International together with our European member organisations, aims to influence the adoption of unified policies, regulations, and a robust legal framework that reflect child protection concerns across digital spaces and encrypted environments. Click to find out more.

GOING DIGITAL

Our campaigns to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse

Project Beacon has been running since late 2020, and our advocacy and campaigning work in this area has continued to evolve and gathered pace throughout 2021 and 2022. We have primarily focused our efforts on two stakeholder groups: online service providers and law and policy makers in the EU and Member States. For example, in September 2021, ECPAT coordinated a CSO letter to encourage Apple to follow through on its proposal to introduce new technological measures to detect CSAM being uploaded from Apple devices to iCloud. More recently, after the European Commission released a proposal to prevent and combat child sexual abuse in Europe the European Commission released a proposal for a Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse in the EU on 11 May 2022, ECPAT is actively working with the European Commission, CSOs in the EU and beyond, and its own members across the EU to advocate for the change needed to ensure children's rights are at the heart of this proposed regulation, and all digital policy in the EU. To amplify our messages and those of other CSOs working on these issues in the EU, ECPAT also joined 13 other civil society organisations, we recently joined the #ChildSafetyShouldntStopOnline campaign with the aim of raising awareness on the issue and call on the #EU to ensure online spaces safer for children.

These examples demonstrate the need for online service providers and governments to take active measures to ensure child safety, and that a landscape where tech companies are able, are expected to and are obliged to do more to protect children online is possible. And because upholding the rights of victims and survivors drives our work, we continue to call for improved global coordination and collaboration between governments, law enforcement and professionals supporting child victims of online sexual exploitation.

Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism

The growth of all forms of travel and tourism – be it mass tourism or community and local tourism – carries various risks to children, but if regulated these can be mitigated. We need to shift the perception that addressing risks associated with the sexual exploitation of children is a negative story that the industry does not want to associate with tourism. The focus should first be on prevention, and working with children and communities to prevent sexual exploitation of children should be seen a positive narrative that can draw attention and business. While increasing attention has been given to the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism over the last years, more action is needed, and a broader range of actors need to be mobilised to "rethinking tourism" and effectively protect children, while addressing this crime in relation to drivers of exclusion, migration, labour, and online exploitation and abuse of children.

To adequately address the sexual exploitation of children during this recovery phase, our priorities for action have included: evidence-based awareness raising, advocating for improved laws and policies and their enforcement, capacity-building for travel and tourism professionals, with comprehensive and sustainable prevention through proactive engagement of the private sector and other actors. With travel restrictions easing and more countries opening up for international visitors, engagement with the general public through awareness-building campaigns has also been a key focus area.

The Code (short for "The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism") is a multi-stakeholder initiative that provides business and organisations within the tourism sector with the critical knowledge and tools needed to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

In the past year, we're pleased to welcome on board 25 new member companies from 12 different countries!

The Code members are supported with the tools and knowledge needed to protect children from sexual exploitation. In mid 2021, we launched new Code e-learnings, offering all member companies access to online training modules for 10 different employee profiles in 10 languages, with real life case scenarios.









ECPAT Summary Papers

Launched in late 2020, the ECPAT Summary papers have continued to provide key insight into what we know about the manifestations of child sexual exploitation.

- Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism
- Child, Early and Forced marriages as a form of, or pathway to Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Online Child Sexual Exploitation
- Sale and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
- Sexual Exploitation of Children in Prostitution.



Unbeknownst at the time, the strong data and insights provided, has allowed for, in collaboration with incountry partners, more targeted and robust local research. Our rolling country analysis, otherwise known as the ECPAT Country Overviews (or ECOs), have been published for Albania and Hungary. In both reports we explored how child marriage and children living in institutions are at risk of sexual exploitation. The ECPAT research team also coordinated design, ethical review and extensive data collection in 30 countries. Conversations with child survivors, surveys with frontline social support workers, and interviews with government representatives, police, legal professionals and other experts informed our multi-country projects:



Cross-cutting ways to end the sexual exploitation of children

In response to the needs of our global network members, we have continued to explore adaptive ways to continue to push for children's rights, culminating in a new and ambitious Strategic Framework. Several of our current projects continue to tackle the cross-cutting theme of online sexual exploitation of children, including both Disrupting Harm, Project Beacon, and Survivors Perspectives.

Thanks to the support of Bread for the World (Germany), the ECPAT Secretariat, together with our member organisations in Bolivia, Cambodia, Kenya, Moldova, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, and Uganda, have implemented phase 1 of the Access to Justice initiative. This project is aimed at assessing the barriers and opportunities in selected countries for child victims of sexual exploitation to access justice, and to advocate towards improved access to justice. During phase 1, ECPAT assessed the current legal response to child sexual exploitation in each of these countries and is currently preparing dedicated national stakeholder engagement workshops in all countries. Eventually, the project will deliver clear and targeted advocacy roadmaps, and a coordinated effort to empower civil society in these countries to implement those. To find out more, click here.

Developing travel & tourism with child protection in focus for a sustainable post COVID-19 pandemic recovery

ECPAT International is engaged in the Corona-Tourism-Package the German Federal Government has initiated to retain the structures of the tourism sector and to empower local actors. The project involves 10 countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Philippines and Vietnam, in cooperation with Germany to find sustainable ways out of this crisis while prioritising child protection. As part of this work, ECPAT International with its partners on the ground supported governments with a guidance and country legal analysis on how to protect children from sexual exploitation in the context of travel and tourism with its online elements, that resulted in development of standards for the industry and increased recognition of the problem. ECPAT engaged also business, including small and local enterprises, with an increasing number of travel and tourism companies taking action to identify and address the risk and impacts they may have on children (see the risk assessment tool) and incorporating child protection measures in their operations through The Code. With Germany being one of the most active travel nations, ECPAT conducted also a public poll to understand attitudes of travellers that clearly indicated that a proactive approach by governments and business to child protection is expected from customers.

Ending trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children through sustainable travel & tourism recovery and development

Various travel and tourism products that offer unregulated access to children, are not only detrimental to the development of children, but can also put them at risk of sexual exploitation. Although over the last years more and more companies have taken the initiative to transition away from offering visits to orphanages, a variety of voluntourism packages allowing un-vetted access to children, including in residential care facilities are still widespread among voluntourism products offered. To address the risk, ECPAT International with its partners on the ground supported governments and business to understand and address the risk of sexual exploitation of children in the context of voluntourism for which an Issues Paper and The Code Volunturism policy were developed with clear recommendations for action, that resulted in policy developments initiated across Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa and the Americas to attract positive travel and tourism development in destinations.



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