



ANNEX 5

ECPAT INTERNATIONAL
CHILD SAFE BUSINESSES

Children's Rights and Business Principles¹

This document outlines the minimum expectations of ECPAT International with regard to suppliers, vendors, and contractors.

The Children's Rights and Business Principles sets out business actions to respect and support children's rights. Children's rights are outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age and Convention No. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour. Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the principle that "In all actions concerning children ... the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

THE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT -- avoiding any infringement of the human rights of others, including children, and addressing any adverse human rights impact with which the business is involved. The corporate responsibility to respect applies to the business's own activities and to its business relationships, linked to its operations, products or services.

THE CORPORATE COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT -- in addition to respecting human rights, voluntary actions that seek to advance human rights, including children's rights, through core business activities, strategic social investments and philanthropy, advocacy and public policy engagement, and working in partnership and other collective action.

Respect for children's rights in protection from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation is the minimum required of businesses that ECPAT International works with. Actions to support children's rights are strongly encouraged even if not required.

In this document, the phrase 'children's rights' is synonymous with the 'human rights of children'.

ALL BUSINESSES ENGAGING WITH ECPAT INTERNATIONAL MUST:

1. Respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children.
2. Contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships. Never hire children under the age of employment as defined in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 138.² Never hire children to do work considered harmful or hazardous.³ This includes:
 - ▶ Work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
 - ▶ Work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
 - ▶ Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;

1 Adapted from Child Safe Movement (2018). [Child Welfare and the Travel Industry: Global Good Practice Guidelines](#); UNICEF, The Global Compact, and Save the Children (2012). [Children's Rights and Business Principles](#).

2 International Labour Organization (1973). [ILO Minimum Age Convention](#). ILO Convention No. 138.

3 International Labour Organization (1999). [Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation](#). Article 3 of ILO Recommendation No. 190.

- ▶ Work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
 - ▶ Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.
3. Provide decent work for young workers (of legal working age), parents and caregivers. This includes respecting national labour laws, including maternity leave and working conditions for mothers. This means no work which is defined as some of the **“worst” forms of child labour**:⁴
- ▶ All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
 - ▶ The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
 - ▶ The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
 - ▶ Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (“hazardous child labour”, see below).
4. Ensure the protection and safety of children in all business activities and facilities. This includes actively working to prevent the exploitation of children and not tolerating child sexual exploitation on our premises and facilities or through our services and communications.
5. Ensure that products, services, and premises are safe for children.
6. Use marketing and advertising in a way that respects and supports children’s rights and dignity.
7. Support community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children’s rights.

As the owner of _____ (business name), when operating with ECPAT International, I agree that my business will abide by the principles listed above. I also agree to ensure that all staff within my business, who will come into contact with children participating in ECPAT International activities, will sign the Child Welfare Self-Declaration form on the following page. The signed copies of these forms will be shared with the ECPAT International focal point for the activity.

Signed _____ **Witness (ECPAT staff)** _____

Date _____

⁴ International Labour Organization (1999). [Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation](#). Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182.