



Terms of Reference

Consultancy for the creation and layout of the ECPAT International advocacy and communications package on the Age of Sexual Consent.

April 2026

Organisational context

[ECPAT International](#) is a global network of civil society organisations working together for the elimination of the sexual exploitation of children in all its manifestations. **The ECPAT Network currently consists of 143 members working as independent organisations or coalitions in 115 countries.** The ECPAT International Secretariat coordinates the global work of the network and is based in Bangkok, Thailand. The Secretariat designs and implements global and regional initiatives and undertakes programming, campaigning, advocacy and research to facilitate network initiatives.

Context of the consultancy

As part of the [Global Progress Indicators Project](#), Dentons and ECPAT International have assessed 127 countries' provisions on the **age of sexual consent (i.e., statutory rape)**, with a particular focus on whether such provisions equally apply to both girls and boys.

The age of sexual consent is the legally defined age at which a person is considered mature enough to agree to sexual activity. The age of sexual consent varies across jurisdictions around the world, and there is no international legal instrument establishing it; however, various forms of advocacy have encouraged States to establish a minimum age under which engaging in sexual contact is considered a criminal offence. This is intended to prevent arguments that the child consented as a defence. To ensure that cases of child sexual exploitation do not go unpunished, ECPAT advocates for the age of sexual consent to be set at 18 for all children WITH a close-in-age exemption of 3 years provided to ensure adolescents are not penalised for consensual sexual acts with peers.

The analysis carried out allowed for a review of legislation in 127 jurisdictions. The assessment has found that only 3 out of 127 countries were qualified as setting the age of sexual consent at 18 years old and providing a three-year difference age-gap provision. The small number of positive results is surprising and highlights the importance of this action.

In addition, the assessment reveals that many jurisdictions have discrepancies in the legal protection afforded to boys and girls. This can happen through various scenarios, varying from country to country. These findings highlight how gender-based stereotypes and patriarchal-influenced societies influence legislation and consequently prevent full and equal protection between boys and girls. In many cultures, **the sexual exploitation and abuse of boys is not considered or taken seriously because of the specific gender roles and behaviours that are expected from them.**

Objectives of the assignment

ECPAT International now intends to start the creation and wide dissemination of a media/social media package highlighting the key findings of this research and advocacy messages with concrete suggestions for legal changes. The topic of age of sexual consent is complex and multi-faceted, the media package would therefore focus on specifically describing the impact of age of sexual consent when it comes to crimes of child sexual exploitation, particularly when committed against boys. The visuals will be engaging and tailored to different audiences to ensure that they are accessible to civil society organisations, decision-makers and the wider public.

ECPAT International is therefore looking for a consultant (or group of consultants) to create and layout a series of accessible communications and advocacy materials (or a package) that clearly outlines the results of the analysis and provides a set of concrete recommendations and actions for change, while capturing the nuances and sensitivities of the subject matter.

Key deliverables

1. A laid out and designed accessible and clear advocacy and communications package, including:
 - key findings of the research in clear, non-technical language tailored to each identified audience group;
 - 5-6 main advocacy and policy messages for change that capture the sensitivities of the subject matter and that can be used by civil society organisations to advocate with confidence;
 - a short guidance note for partners on how to use and adapt the social media materials.

The package should have a clear structure, including summary sections for easy use, visual elements and should be delivered in an editable format (e.g. Canva).

2. A suite of visual materials for dissemination through campaigns and other online activities. Materials would likely include:
 - Social media cards that present the key findings of the analysis;
 - Generic graphic cards suitable for newsletter outreach and landing page layout.

Methodology

The consultant will be in charge of suggesting different options for the content and layout of the advocacy package and the social media tools. At a minimum, the methodology is expected to include:

- Preparatory work: The consultant will attend one preparatory online session with ECPAT International;
- Suggestions of at least 3 design options that are in line with ECPAT's visual identity and that are easy to navigate and accessible (in English);
- A follow-up meeting with the ECPAT team to discuss options and ideas, in line with the agreed timeline.

The consultant (or group of consultants) will work in strict collaboration with the Gender, Justice and Child Rights and Communications teams at ECPAT International, which will provide technical and directional support in the development of all the tools.

Consultant profile

The consultant needs to have:

- Demonstrated experience including work on similar assignments, including design and layout of advocacy and communications materials;
- Proven knowledge and previous experience with children's rights, child protection, or gender equity issues;
- Understanding of and commitment to the ECPAT International values;
- Advanced ability to work in English;
- Demonstrated ability to take initiative and work independently and within the established deadline;
- High ethical standards.

Timeline

This consultancy requires an estimated number of 06 working days – to be defined according to the suggested methodology – within the period 15 May-15 June 2026.

Additional Information

This is a home-based position using its own equipment. The consultant(s) should be available for online calls including with different time zones, in particular with Thailand where the ECPAT International Secretariat is based and with Europe.

The maximum budget available for this assignment is 4,000 USD.

Expression of Interest

Please send to Francesca Donelli: francescad@ecpat.org :

- CV detailing relevant experiences;
- A brief suggested methodology and timeline (precising days of work) to carry out the assignment, and supported by a brief budget breakdown;
- Portfolio of previous similar assignments.

Mention in the subject header: Your full name and “Age of Sexual Consent Advocacy Package”.

Deadline

23:59 CET on **Wednesday the 22nd of April 2026**.

Our Commitments

As ECPAT’s International Secretariat, we recognise that our strength lies in the diversity of the people who make up our global network, staff, volunteers and consultants. We are committed to being an inclusive workplace where people of all backgrounds and cultures can strive and be themselves. This means we will challenge ourselves to do better and to continue learning, to create and maintain a working environment steeped in respect, tolerance, safety, and where all parties are valued equally.

ECPAT International is committed to keeping children safe. Individual experts must share our commitment to the safeguarding of children and will be required to sign and adhere to ECPAT International’s policies and procedures including the Child Safeguarding Policy and the Code of Conduct.