



# **Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism**

## **Tourism Training Module**

For Future Tourism Professionals

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## **TOURISM TRAINING MODULE For Tourism Education Centers**

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The rapid growth of international tourism does not only represent an economic boon for most tourism destinations; it sometimes also produces negative socio-cultural impacts which become evident, in particular, in the exploitation of human beings through sex tourism. This abhorrent phenomenon is even more repulsive when those who are directly affected by it are children and adolescents.

The sexual exploitation of children in tourism is a problem which concerns all countries worldwide, tourism-receiving and tourism-sending countries alike.

The Members of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) have taken a firm stand against this practice by unanimously adopting the *WTO Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism* (1995) and the *Global Code of Ethics for Tourism* (1999), the latter affording tourism stakeholders the possibility of addressing the issue of child exploitation within an internationally agreed framework for the responsible and sustainable development of tourism.

By the end of 2000, the WTO and the European Union decided to pool resources to combat what is commonly known under the term “child sex tourism” through a series of interrelated projects that were carried out within the context of the **International campaign against sexual exploitation of children in tourism**. The European Commission provided a grant of almost one million euros to co-fund various actions by WTO and its NGO partners aimed at raising awareness and facilitating education and training on this subject. The preparation and publication of the present module is part of these activities.

The *Tourism Training Module*, in combination with the *Youth Module* closely related to it, has been commissioned by WTO to Ms. Cynthia Messer from the Tourism Centre of the University of Minnesota Extension Service, USA.

The purpose of this Tourism Training Module is to assist educators in integrating the subject of sexual exploitation of children in tourism into existing curricula of higher tourism education and training institutions. Both modules are designed to be adaptable to local needs, not only as language is concerned; they are above all meant to be flexible in contents and implementation. The association of the different government departments responsible for issues such as tourism, education and youth, as well as of schools and training institutes, both at national and local level, in the discussion which will have to take place in each country prior to the implementation of the two education modules is therefore recommended.

WTO calls upon governments and public and private education centres around the world to provide young people with a sound education in the respect of human rights, in particular children's rights, with a view to achieving a socially responsible and sustainable development of tourism worldwide.



Francesco Frangialli  
Secretary-General  
World Tourism Organization

# A knowledgements

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) would like to thank Ms. Cynthia Messer, Extension Educator and Assistant Professor at the Tourism Centre of the University of Minnesota for the preparation of the Youth Module and the Tourism Training Module for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism.

The World Tourism Organization and the author are particularly grateful to all those who have generously provided background information and material on existing education and training programmes on this subject.

The Youth Module and the Tourism Training Module have been prepared under the supervision of Mr. Henryk Handszuh, Chief of Quality of Tourism Development, WTO. Former International Campaign Coordinator, Ms. Perla Goseco, gave her input to the initial draft texts. International Campaign Coordinator Ms. Marina Diotallevi and Senior Assistant Coordinator Ms. Celia García-Contentente reviewed draft lecture texts and did the final editing of the modules.

## Target Audience:

University and college faculty teaching tourism, travel and hospitality programs or classes.

## Contents:

This module includes three major sections

**Section 1:** Background discussion

Written in text style, it provides the basis for lecture

**Section 2:** Suggested lecture outline

Closely follows the flow of Section 1

Includes suggestion for allotted class time

Resource materials for classroom including

Discussion questions

Exercise and project suggestions

Suggested resources

**Section 3:** Sample and support material (Annexes)

The WTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action

The WTO Statement for the Prevention of Organized Sex  
Tourism (1995)

World Tourism Organization Statistics (2000)

Tourism Industry Policy Documents

International Campaign Logo

Case studies

In-flight Spots Information

PowerPoint presentation of the lecture

This module has been developed to assist you in integrating the subject of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) through tourism / “Child Sex Tourism” into your class. This topic fits well within discussions on the impacts of tourism, tourism development, tourism law, geography, sociology and marketing. At the heart of the topic is socially responsible tourism and sustainable development.

The materials are designed to use approximately 4-8 hours of classroom time, depending on the use of discussion, exercises and projects. Lecture content, suggested exercises, collateral material and resources are provided. However, because local and national differences exist, you will want to tailor the materials to include local issues, culture and laws for greatest effectiveness. The materials can be further enhanced by inviting in guest speakers on the subject from local or national NGOs (non-governmental organizations), law enforcement or industry.

## Content

Context  
Definitions  
Scope of Issue  
Background  
Global efforts  
Roles and Responsibilities  
Examples  
Resources

## Objectives

- Define key terms
- Explain the scope of the problem
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of government
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of industry
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of individuals
- Discuss global efforts to combat child sex tourism
- Develop a sample action plan for local application

## Approach

This module uses lecture, audiovisuals, discussion, exercises and examples to present materials and develop student understanding of the subject.

Two types of knowledge needed to successfully present this material:

**Content** – the specific details of the issue

**Context** – understanding of the environment in which it occurs.

This module provides the content and global context for the issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism. It is a subject that is sensitive yet critical to the tourism industry, to countries, and to children globally. The global context for discussing the sexual exploitation of children is grounded in Responsible and Sustainable tourism; and provides a foundation for the introduction of the issue into classroom study.

You, as the instructor will need to add the local and cultural context. Discussion of this subject within the context of diverse cultures – the beliefs, values, family and social structure, etc - is critical to enable students to engage in dialogue and action associated with the issue.

Cultural context is reflected in:

Perceptions – how we view something

Interpretation – how we understand the issue

Values – our judgement of the issue is shaped by our personal and cultural values

Cultural context can be added in many ways. Within the module, suggestions for discussion questions, activities and projects are suggested. You are encouraged to identify and add ideas of your own to bring this issue into the classroom, the thinking of your students and ultimately into the tourism industry.

This guide is designed to make it easy for you to present the materials. On the left side of each page you will find symbols. On the right side of the lecture notes, you will find directions, statements or mini-lectures, questions and exercises.

Throughout the lecture notes, the following symbols are used.



This symbol indicates comments or lecture information.



This symbol indicates discussion questions or information.



This symbol indicates that you conduct the exercise shown.



This symbol indicates that you show a video/spot.

## Pre- and Post- test

Directions: Hand out copies of the following page prior to beginning the module. Ask students to answer the questions. Collect the papers. Do not share the answers, or student's responses. Deliver the module information. At the end of the module, pass out the same questions and ask students to answer them again. Collect the papers and compare responses from the pre-test. This will assess student's individual and/or collective knowledge of the subject before and after the session.

## Answers:

- T
- F
- F
- F
- T
- T

## Directions:

Read each question and circle T if you think the statement is True, or F if you think the statement is False.

- T / F **1)** More than 1 million children each year enter the sex industry worldwide.
- T / F **2)** Children choose to become involved in prostitution.
- T / F **3)** Child prostitution is acceptable in some cultures.
- T / F **4)** Commercial sexual exploitation of children does not happen in our country.
- T / F **5)** Anyone under the age of 18 is a child.
- T / F **6)** There are laws that allow a country to prosecute its citizens for a crime committed in another country.

# Introduction

The commercial sexual exploitation of children has been recognized as a global phenomenon that impacts millions of children each year in countries on every continent. Commercial sexual exploitation of children is not new, but the growing extent of the issue is worldwide. Every day, more and more children around the world are being subjected to it against their will.

It is a fundamental violation of children's rights which de-humanizes children and treats them as commercial objects. The commercial sexual exploitation of children happens in a variety of ways, including pornography, trafficking and prostitution. Most perpetrators are local clients. A growing number though, are leisure visitors or business travelers in a host country. This module focuses on the sexual exploitation of children through tourism – sometimes referred to as “child sex tourism”.

It is important for those entering or working within the tourism industry to develop an understanding of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism (SECT), and to identify ways the industry can take positive actions to end it.

This module looks at the phenomenon - what it is, why it happens, who is involved, what collective actions are being taken to stop it, and what are the roles and responsibilities of each sector.

To begin an examination of commercial sexual exploitation of children through tourism, clear definitions need to be established.

## Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

The use of children for sexual gratification by adults for remuneration in cash or kind to the child, or a third person(s). It constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery. It includes prostitution, pornography, and the trafficking and sale of children as well as other forms of sexual exploitation.

*(Adapted from the Declaration of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, June 1996)*

## Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT) also called Child Sex Tourism

The sexual exploitation of a child by a person or persons who engages in sexual activities with the child while traveling away from their own country or region. This usually involves some form of payment – either cash or items such as food, clothing or trinkets.

*(Adapted from the Declaration of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, June 1996)*

## Child

The United Nations defines a child as a person under the age of 18 unless national laws state otherwise. Many countries however, have laws that define individuals younger than 18 as adults.

*(Source: Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1, 1989)*

## Organized Sex Tourism

Defined by WTO as “trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination.”

*(Source: WTO Statement On The Prevention Of Organized Sex Tourism, Resolution A/RES/338 (XI) 1995)*

## The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is one of the most important multilateral documents addressing the human rights of children worldwide. It was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, and has been signed since by 198 countries (all countries except the United States and Somalia).

The UNCRC contains 54 articles, directed towards protecting children and their rights. Included in the articles are basic rights related to health and welfare, family, education, freedom of expression and protection from discrimination and exploitation. “In all measures concerning children, the welfare of children shall be a primary concern.” (*Article 3, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*). Article 34, as well as Articles 35, 36 and 37, specifies the protection of children from sexual exploitation.

The complete text of Article 34 of the UNCRC reads:

*“State parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes state parties shall in particular take all appropriate, national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent;*

- (a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;*
- (b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;*
- (c) the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.”*

# Scope of the Issue

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a global issue. Given the nature of the issue, reliable statistics are difficult to obtain. Most estimates (ECPAT<sup>1</sup>, UNICEF<sup>2</sup>) put the number of children who enter the sex market at well over 1 million each year worldwide.

Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT) occurs wherever tourism occurs. Travel and tourism is an integral part of everyday life in many countries, and international travel has become a common event for many people. The numbers of international travelers has grown significantly in the past decade, and World Tourism Organization (WTO) projections are for continued growth.

The relationship of tourism and CSEC has become a focus of international concern. Evidence shows that the major flow of tourists engaging in CSEC is mainly from the economically developed countries in Western Europe, North America, Asia, Oceania and the Middle East to less developed countries in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. It is also a regional problem. For example, sex tourists from Japan traveling to Indonesia and Thailand; or North Americans from Canada and the United States traveling to Mexico or the Caribbean. There are individuals in all regions who engage in CSEC while traveling to nearby countries, or even within their own country. **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children occurs wherever there is an opportunity.**

In 1996, UNICEF and ECPAT estimated the following numbers of children involved in the sex industry:

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| China                     | 200,000+        |
| Dominican Republic        | 25,000          |
| India                     | 300,000-400,000 |
| Pakistan                  | 20,000-40,000   |
| Philippines               | 100,000         |
| Sri Lanka                 | 20,000-30,000   |
| Taiwan, Province of China | 60,000          |
| Thailand                  | 100,000-250,000 |
| Venezuela                 | 40,000          |

(Source: World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children)

- 1 ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) is an international NGO based in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2 United Nations International Children's Fund.

# Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT): Why Does It Occur?

There are a number of reasons for the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Economic disparity and the dramatic growth of travel worldwide in the past forty years are contributing factors. Tourism is the number one industry worldwide in terms of employment and revenue. Tourism is viewed as a major economic growth opportunity in most countries. However, unplanned development, rapid growth and economic potential create opportunities for exploitation at the local level. In the past, some countries viewed sex tourism, including the sexual exploitation of children, as a component of their tourism development. Today, governments that allowed sex tourism, are realizing the damage this has inflicted on their country and are taking steps to change.

## Reasons for the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism include:

### Anonymity

When tourists are away from home, many feel a sense of freedom from responsibility and the social, moral or cultural constraints they feel at home. This sense of anonymity leads them to behave in a way they would never do at home among peers. It is a sense of “nobody knows me here – so why not?” For example, individuals who would never visit a brothel at home might consider doing so in another country because they know that no one from their hometown will know it happened.

### Cultural Ignorance

Tourists travel to another country to experience a different culture and environment. When there are cultural differences such as language, social, economic or religious differences, visitors may make assumptions about what is acceptable within the host culture. The tourist then rationalizes his/her behavior based on incorrect information and assumptions.

Customs and morals, including sexual, differ between cultures and should be respected. What is acceptable behavior in one country may be unacceptable in another (e.g. public display of affection or nudity).

## Rationalization / "Helping the poor"

Some tourists rationalize that the sexual exploitation of children helps the poor. The visitor may think the child is helping to support her/his family, and that by purchasing sex with the child he/she is helping the child and her family economically.

## Sense of superiority

Travel can reinforce prejudice. Tourists, particularly when traveling from a developed country to a less developed country, may feel a sense of superiority -either culturally or economically- to individuals in the host country. Their prejudices lead them to consider persons in poorer countries as inferior and often they have no scruples about exploiting local people. They bring closed minds and see only what they want to see.

## Fear of AIDS

The fear of AIDS has raised the demand for virgins and younger sex partners. The misconception is that child sex partners are free of disease. The reality is that a child with an immature reproductive tract is at a higher risk of infection.

## Supply generates demand

In some countries, children are easily available to tourists as a sex partner. These children are available in brothels, on the street, or in tourist areas. The availability of children as a sex partner gives the impression that it is culturally acceptable, and creates a powerful temptation for some.

## Demand generates supply

In the 1960s and 70s, large numbers of military personnel in Southeast Asia were sent to countries including Thailand and the Philippines for "R&R - Rest and Recreation." The large "demand" for sexual partners led to the increased use of children in the sex industry.

## Local causes for the sexual exploitation of children include:

- Poverty
- Economic disparity
- Lack of education
- Rural-urban migration
- Gender discrimination
- Family breakdown or dysfunction
- Consumerism
- Corruption

Poverty is frequently cited as the predominant cause of commercial sexual exploitation of children. A growing body of research suggests that poverty is only one of several major contributors to the vulnerability of children. Socio-cultural factors including changing family and community dynamics, and rural-urban migration are also important factors.

The role of girls and women differs between societies because of cultural values and traditions. In some cultures, girls (and women) suffer gender discrimination. A sense of obligation or powerlessness toward this situation may cause a young girl to enter the sex world against her will.

Lack of employment, changes in family structure including the loss of parent(s), or dysfunctional families may also make children vulnerable. Sexual or physical abuse may drive a child to leave home. In many rural areas, limited opportunities for earning a living drives youth and families to urban areas. Lacking education and without job skills, prostitution may be seen as survival.

In many areas of the world, children are seen as a commodity to be sold or bonded into labor and/or prostitution. CSEC involves not only individual entrepreneurs, but often it is conducted by organized networks. Various strategies are used. Although there is evidence of families knowingly selling or pushing their children into sexual exploitation, most parents sell their children into the sex trade unwittingly. Families and children may be duped into believing that the child is going into a domestic job or some other form of labor; and will have a "better life." Alternately, children may actually be kidnapped and sold. Corruption and lack of accountability of public officers enables and even assists this.

Understanding the causes is important to being able to identify actions to stop and to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

## Tourists

Child sex tourists do not have identifiable characteristics. They look like most other tourists. They come from diverse cultures, occupations and social classes. They are of all ages, married and single. They include both business and leisure travelers. The majority of those engaging in sex with children are men, but women are also involved.

Most tourists do not intentionally travel seeking sex with children. They are considered “**situational abusers.**” These are the individuals who take advantage of the availability of child sex partners at a destination. They use many elements of the tourism industry in planning, booking and experiencing a holiday or business trip. Situational Abusers can be influenced by media, education, laws and peers to not participate.

Situational abusers differ from “**preferential child sex abusers**” and **paedophiles**. Preferential child sex abusers are individuals who prefer children who have reached or passed puberty as sex objects. **Paedophiles** have a true personality disorder, and their sexual interests focus on pre-pubescent children.<sup>3</sup> These individuals frequently have a network of communication and arrangements that provide access to children, and do not use standard tourist organizations such as travel agencies to book trips. These individuals use the Internet, private clubs and sex magazines to gain information and access to children in destinations around the world. In the host destinations, they use transportation modes, accommodations and local eating and drinking establishments. Their decision to travel with the intent to have sex with children may be influenced by national laws.

## Tourism Industry

The tourism industry is not responsible for the growth of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Reputable tourism businesses do not knowingly or willingly participate. However, their services and facilities may be used. Tourists plan and book travel arrangements, travel on various modes of transportation and use tourism facilities at the host destination including accommodations, eating and drinking establishments, attractions and retail shops. Each of these provides an opportunity for the tourism industry to take action to prevent or stop SECT.

3 Davidson, Julia O’Connell. “The Sex Exploiter.” Background paper prepared by ECPAT for the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. 1996.

The degree of responsibility of the tourism sector is defined as:

**Direct responsibility** corresponds to those in the tourism sector who knowingly publicise, organise, and receive sex tours (even if, at present, there is little evidence of such involvement), as well as to the operators of establishments and premises where travellers can actually meet and sexually exploit children, namely, accommodation facilities, entertainment centres, leisure areas, etc. Tolerating such activities implies complicity of the operators and complacency of travel organisers.

**Indirect or potential responsibility** also corresponds to tour operators, travel agents, and carriers, especially airlines, who become aware that they are used as vehicles to carry declared or potential sex offenders to the destinations.<sup>4</sup>

## Children

Children do not participate in sex and prostitution by choice. Children are sold, coerced or 'recruited' by individuals, business people or even family members. Most children come from poor families. Cultural values and norms related to sex, the responsibility of children and a child's position within the family/community vary greatly, and influence the decisions made by families and children. Other children, including street children, are forced into it for survival or to support drug habits.

Children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation in tourism range in age from 8 to 18 years of age, but cases of younger children have been documented. The average in most countries is 13-14 years of age.

## Locals

Individuals as well as organized crime organizations are involved. Tourists are often willing to pay large amounts of money for sex with children, generating high profits for those selling the child. The trade in children, including trafficking and pornography represents a multi-billion dollar industry.

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4 World Tourism Organization Executive Council document EC/54/4 Annex II. Madrid.

The Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism creates negative impacts on several levels.

## The Child

First, are the consequences for the child. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children causes severe physical, mental and social impacts.

The child is at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases or HIV/AIDS, as well as being further physically abused or beaten. The immature body of a child is more vulnerable to disease because his/her immune system is not yet fully developed. A pre-pubescent girl whose reproductive tract is still developing may experience genital tears and abrasions caused by sexual activity that allow for transmission of disease. Pregnancy, abortion and fertility problems are also common issues.

Many prostituted children become chemical abusers – introduced to drugs by pimps and brothel owners as a means of control. They may “voluntarily” turn to drugs, alcohol, or solvents to escape reality, or to numb themselves to the pain they are feeling.

Children trafficked into other countries face social and cultural ostracizing. They may also experience arrest and detention because of their illegal entry into the country.

Finally, children often find that life after prostitution is difficult. Many suffer life-long and life-threatening illnesses. Children who are lucky enough to get out of this life are frequently ostracized and suffer low self-esteem. Those with HIV/AIDS rarely return home. Because many of these children have limited educations and few marketable skills, they may turn to other types of criminal activity to survive.

## The Community

At the community level, the commercial sexual exploitation of children represents the commodification of the child. Children may be seen as objects to be sold or traded, or as social “discards.” The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including that which occurs in tourism, contributes to the erosion of human values and rights, which ultimately threatens the health of society. Education, prevention and support programmes created by collaboration between government, non-governmental and local agencies are needed. “A partnership must be developed to tackle the range of preventative and remedial efforts. The main thrust of collaboration would be to enhance the skills and capacities of the indigenous organizations so that the policies and programmes in a country become increasingly self-reliant and sustainable.”<sup>5</sup>

## The Destination

For the country, the sexual exploitation of children in tourism can damage the image of the destination and diminish the quality of the tourism product. If the image becomes too negative, the economic benefit of tourism is minimized as tourists seek alternative destinations.

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5 Ahmed, Manzoor and Sara Ann Friedman. 1996. Education: A Force for Change. UNICEF paper submitted to the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. P 18-19.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children is not new, although it has become a major issue globally. Young girls (and boys) have been prostituted and sexually exploited throughout history. However, technology and globalization have made the sexual exploitation for commercial purposes accessible, immediate and widespread. International cooperation is essential to counter the practice.

The identification of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism as a growing problem was brought into the international spotlight in the early 1990s primarily by non-governmental organizations. A group of NGO workers and other concerned individuals in 1990 formed a campaign against sexual exploitation of children in Asian tourism called ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism). In 1996, ECPAT decided to widen the scope of its work to encompass the issues of child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and to broaden its focus to become an international NGO. As ECPAT took a broader focus, they revised their name to *End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes* to retain the acronym ECPAT. Today, ECPAT has affiliated organizations in more than 45 countries. See [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net) for more information.

International tourism industry organizations also began to address the issue of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. The Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations (UFTAA) was the first industry association to take an action, adopting The Child and Travel Agents' Charter in 1994. UFTAA hosted a colloquium in France on the subject that same year. UFTAA's efforts were supported by the International Hotel & Restaurant Association-IH&RA (formerly known as the International Hotel Association), and the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

The World Tourism Organization specifically addressed the issue in its 1995 Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism (Resolution A/RES/338 (XI)). This was the first formal document adopted by WTO Member States to speak directly about child sexual exploitation.

The event that really focused global attention on the issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children occurred in 1996. The first World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was convened in Stockholm, Sweden, in August of 1996.

The World Congress was attended by more than 1,300 participants from 130 countries. Representatives of 122 governments participated along with representatives from international agencies, industry, NGOs, concerned

individuals, and youth from 8 countries. The Congress for the first time addressed commercial sexual exploitation of children as a growing and complex global phenomenon. It was the culmination of a global mobilization process initiated by ECPAT that included six regional consultations to gather input and support. The Congress was hosted by the Government of Sweden, and organized in cooperation with ECPAT, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Declaration and Agenda for Action was circulated globally prior to the congress, and adopted on the second day of meetings. (See *Annex 2 for a full copy of the Declaration*)

A second World Congress will be held in Yokohama Japan in December 2001.

The aim of the Second World Congress is to review progress in implementing the Agenda for Action adopted at the first congress, and to strengthen action to eradicate commercial sexual exploitation of children. The main themes of the World Congress are:

- Child pornography
- Prevention, protection and recovery of children from sexual exploitation
- Trafficking in children
- Role and involvement of the private sector
- Legislation and law enforcement
- Profile of the sex exploiter

# Tourism Sector Response to the Congress

Following the Stockholm congress in 1996, the World Tourism Organization established the Child Prostitution and Tourism Task Force. In March 2001, the task force changed its name to the Task Force to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism.

The Task Force is a global action platform of tourism-related key-players from governments, tourism industry sectors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and media associations. The aim of the Task Force is to prevent, uncover, isolate and eradicate the sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

The Task Force's main objectives are to:

- Build awareness among the tourism sector, governments and tourists
- Encourage the tourism industry to engage in good and ethical practices
- Adopt professional codes of conduct and other self-regulatory measures
- Invite governments to take administrative and legal measures, such as designating focal points (contact persons) within their national tourism administration, establishing emergency hotlines, strengthening national legislation against sexual abuse of children in tourism and improving law enforcement.
- Encourage co-operation between the public and private sector, as well as between tourist generating and receiving countries, and
- Monitor the fight against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism networks at national and international level.

At its first meeting in March 1997, the Task Force agreed to adopt and use a uniform logo for the international campaign against child sex tourism. The logo was originally designed and used by Brazil, in its national campaign against child sex tourism. At the request of WTO, the Brazilian government agreed to cede the logo to the international campaign. (*Sample in PowerPoint presentation in Annex 11*)

The task force is open to any interested individual or organization. The task force continues to meet twice annually at the International Tourism Fair (ITB) in Berlin in March and World Travel Mart (WTM) in London in November.

The task force website is hosted and maintained by the World Tourism Organization at [www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children)

## Tourism Industry Participants

Most major international tourism associations have joined the global campaign and/or have adopted tourism policy documents or codes of conduct against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. They include:

- The Resolution to combat Child Sex Tourism of the Federation of International Youth Travel Organisations (FIYTO);
- The Final Resolution condemning commercial sexual exploitation of children of the International Air Transport Association (IATA);
- The Code of Conduct against the Sexual Exploitation of Children of the International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO);
- The Resolution against Sex Tourism of the International Federation of Women's Travel Organisations (IFWTO);
- The Resolution against the sexual exploitation of children of the International Hotel and Restaurants Association (IH&RA);
- The Resolution on Prostitution Tourism and Standard Agreement of the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF/UITA/IUL);
- The Child and Travel Agents' Charter of the Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations (UFTAA);
- The Declaration against child sex tourism of the Group of National Tour Operators' Associations within the European Union (ECTAA);
- The Declaration against the Sexual Exploitation of Children of the Confederation of the National Associations of Hotels, Restaurants, Cafés and Similar Establishments of the European Union and the European Economic Area (HOTREC).

These tourism organizations, along with many non-governmental organizations, governments, law enforcement agencies and individuals have mobilized in various ways. The international campaign is progressing, but there is still much to do.

UNICEF, ECPAT and other international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have developed numerous consumer awareness and tourism industry awareness materials in several languages. These materials are available free of cost to both consumers and tourism industry organizations.

The mobilization of the tourism industry has been more difficult. Several of the international tourism associations, in addition to adopting formal declarations against SECT, have produced awareness building brochures and guidelines for members.

Several important and effective efforts are:

Code of Conduct for the Travel and Tourism Industry

Youth Career Development Programme

*(see the case studies provided in Annex 8 and 9)*

# International Law: Cooperation and Enforcement

The international community has been strong in condemning the commercial sexual exploitation of children and calling for protection of the rights of children. However, there is no international body directly responsible for overseeing, investigating or monitoring the condition of children involved in the sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

The United Nations through its bodies including UNICEF and WTO; and the International Labor Organization (ILO), can advise governments and industry of certain conditions, but ultimately rely on sovereign governments to take action. INTERPOL<sup>6</sup>, can investigate and enforce legal commitments by governments. These agencies rely on cooperation from industry, government and NGOs to succeed in protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation.

## Legislation

Legislation and enforcement can be powerful deterrents to the commercial sexual exploitation of children. There are basically two types of national laws that apply to this issue.

### Age of consent

These exist in almost every country, but the age of consent varies widely from 12 to 18. The United Nations defines a child as “every human being under the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.” (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) Penalties vary locally as well, and may be broken down into categories depending on the age of the child.

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6 INTERPOL (International Criminal Police Organization).

## Extra-territoriality

These laws allow for prosecution of national citizens for crimes committed abroad. Some extraterritoriality laws allow for prosecution regardless of whether the offence is punishable under the law of the country where it occurred. Several countries have general laws identifying various crimes and offenses, including sexual abuse of children, but in some countries, specific extra territoriality laws have been passed which focus on sexual crimes against children. Extra territoriality laws and the related penalties vary greatly between countries.

To date, more than 30 governments have passed extra-territorial legislation.

As of 2001 these countries are:

|           |             |                        |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------|
| Algeria   | Germany     | Norway                 |
| Australia | Iceland     | Portugal               |
| Austria   | Ireland     | Slovenia               |
| Belgium   | Italy       | Spain                  |
| Cyprus    | Japan       | Sweden                 |
| Canada    | Laos        | Switzerland            |
| China     | Luxembourg  | Taiwan, Prov. of China |
| Denmark   | Mexico      | Thailand               |
| Ethiopia  | Morocco     | United Kingdom         |
| Finland   | Netherlands | United States          |
| France    | New Zealand |                        |

(Source: Child Sex Tourism Survey & Action Program, ECPAT International, 2001)

## Bilateral Agreements

Bilateral agreements –between two countries, can facilitate implementation of existing laws. Currently, the Philippines has bilateral agreements with Australia and New Zealand. Thailand and Cambodia are working on a Memorandum of Understanding to more effectively act against trafficking in women and children.

The tourism industry, along with governments, non-governmental organizations, local citizens and even the tourist themselves, have responsibilities in the campaign to end the sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

## Government

1. Acknowledge that the problem exists and involves citizens
  - a) As a tourism receiving country – citizens are victims
  - b) As a sending country – citizens are perpetrators
  - c) United Nations Convention on Rights of Child must be institutionalized at the national level
2. Must take action
  - a) Prevention through education
  - b) Effective provision of health services, quality education training, and family/community development
  - c) Reporting and monitoring mechanisms
  - d) Laws – change, create and enforce
3. Laws
  - a) Domestic
    - Age of consent
    - Child labor
    - Criminal - punishment of abusers
  - b) Extra territorial
    - Citizens are punished under their own country's laws for actions committed while in another country.
  - c) Enforcement
    - Immigration and border controls
    - Local law enforcement
    - International cooperation
4. Research
  - a) Encourage research by existing research and education centres
  - b) Fund research

## Tourism Industry

1. Inform travelers
2. Education of personnel
3. Promote socially responsible tourism
4. Ensure advertising and promotion is not exploitative
5. Voluntary monitoring and self-regulation
  - a) Codes of Conduct
  - b) Association punitive disciplinary actions
  - c) Contracts & business partnerships
  - d) Reporting mechanisms
6. Lobby government for stronger laws and enforcement

## Non-governmental organizations

1. Issue identification and advocacy
2. Awareness building campaigns
3. Research
4. Education
5. Victim assistance

## Local citizens

1. Do not participate
2. Report suspicious behaviour
3. Protect children
4. Fight corruption
5. Lobby government for action

## Tourists

1. Respect local culture
2. Do not participate
3. Report suspicious behaviour
4. Be an informed traveler

## Tour Operators

- Participate in the code of conduct
- Train staff to recognize and take action
- Train local partners
- Advise clients in literature and in-person of laws
- Provide information on responsible travel
- Require local suppliers to not condone or participate
- Do not use suggestive advertising
- Work with local law enforcement and non-governmental organizations

## Travel Agencies

- Encourage responsible tourism
- Inform clients of laws and potential risks in literature and ticket stuffers
- Print information on travel itineraries
- Visibly display the international campaign logo
- Visibly display hotline numbers/reporting mechanisms
- Educate staff about issue, how to recognize and take action
- Do not use or display suggestive advertising
- Support companies who promote responsible tourism

## Hotels

- Make it policy to oppose the commercial sexual exploitation of children
- Do not allow SECT to happen at your property/premises
- Educate all staff about the issue, laws and risks
- Train all staff to identify and report suspicious activities
- Liaise with unions and worker organizations
- Visibly display the international campaign logo
- Visibly display hotline numbers/reporting mechanisms
- Provide information on local laws and customs in guest literature such as in-room information, TV information channel and hotel brochure
- Do not let unsupervised children wander or loiter in hotel public areas
- Work with local law enforcement and non-governmental organizations

## Airlines

- Use the in-flight video spots to inform travelers about issue
- Include the international campaign logo on ticket jackets, in-flight magazines and other traveler materials
- Educate staff about the issue, laws and risks
- Train all staff to recognize and report suspicious activities
- Print information about laws on travel itineraries
- Visibly display hotline numbers/reporting mechanisms
- Use international campaign logo and information posters throughout airport and VIP lounges
- Work with customs and immigration to include leaflet in arrival documentation
- Include a message about the issue in CRT boot-up information

## Government Tourism Offices/ Embassies

- Provide information about local laws and customs in all information requests and visa applications
- Include information about the issue and laws on all maps and literature
- Do not use suggestive advertising
- Promote responsible tourism
- Visibly display the international campaign logo on all literature and in all offices
- Educate local industry about the issue and laws
- Work with local law enforcement and non-governmental organizations

# Suggested Outline for Classroom Lecture

Suggested time needed

I. Introduction: Setting the context (30 minutes)

- A. Concept of responsible tourism
- B. Concept of sustainable tourism
- C. Cultural aspects of host population(s) and visitors

II. Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT) (90 minutes)

A. Scope of the issue

- a. Where it is occurring
- b. Tourist flows

Discussion questions

Exercises

B. Definitions

C. Why Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism Occurs

- a. Demand side
- b. Supply side

Discussion questions

Exercises

D. Who is involved

Discussion questions

Exercises

E. Impacts

- a. On child
- b. On community
- c. On destination

Discussion questions

Exercises

III. Global Response

(60-90 minutes)

A. Background

B. First World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (1996)

C. Tourism Industry response

D. Government response

Show video of in-flight spots

Discussion questions

Exercises/Project suggestions

IV. What can be done locally and/or individually

(60- 90 minutes)

Discussion questions

Exercises/Project suggestions

## 1.0 Context

**Begin the class by setting the context for the discussion of the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT) using the WTO definition of sustainable tourism and the concept of Responsible Tourism. This may simply be a reminder of the concepts.**



### *Mini-lecture*

Today we are going to look at an issue that has gained increasing focus and concern in the tourism industry –the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT). The commercial sexual exploitation of children has been recognized as a global phenomenon that impacts millions of children each year in countries on every continent. Commercial sexual exploitation of children is not new, but the growing extent of the issue is worldwide. Every day, more and more children around the world are being subjected to it against their will. It is a fundamental violation of children's rights which de-humanizes children and treats them as commercial objects. The commercial sexual exploitation of children happens in a variety of ways, including pornography, trafficking and prostitution. We will focus on the sexual exploitation of children through tourism (SECT) – sometimes referred to as “child sex tourism.”

It is important for those entering or working within the tourism industry to develop an understanding of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, and to identify ways the industry can take positive actions against it.



We will look at the phenomenon-what it is, why it happens, who is involved, what collective actions are being taken to stop it, and the roles and responsibilities of the industry, government and non-government agencies.

## 1.1 Sustainable tourism

To set the context for discussion of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, we begin by reviewing and discussing sustainable and responsible tourism concepts. The World Tourism Organization defines Sustainable Tourism:

*“Sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems.”*

## 1.2 Responsible tourism

The World Tourism Organization has also adopted a “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.” The Code was developed in consultation with governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations, following the recommendation by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and counts with the acknowledgement of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which “invites Governments and other stakeholders in the tourism sector to consider introducing (its) contents in relevant laws, regulations and professional practices.”

The purpose of the Code is to provide guidelines for integrating sustainable tourism principles into action. The code includes nine articles outlining the “rules of the game” for destinations, governments, tour operators, developers, travel agents, workers and even the travelers themselves. The tenth article provides a process for addressing grievances and a mechanism for enforcement.



Review the WTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and discuss its relevance to the topic of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Particularly note Article 2.

(Note: a full copy of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism is available in Annex 1, or may be downloaded from the World Tourism Organization website at [www.world-tourism.org](http://www.world-tourism.org).)



Discuss these definitions from both the receiving and sending country perspectives. Consider the impacts that tourism has on the receiving country, and ways that tourists, the tourism industry, and even governments in the sending countries might assist in minimizing negatives or enhancing the benefits.



### Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the potential benefits and costs (impacts) associated with tourism?
2. How can the tourism industry (and specific sectors) in a sending country affect the benefits and costs of tourism in a receiving country?

*(Expect answers like: by helping to educate travelers, by using ethical standards, developing responsible products, understanding the local culture, working with local businesses in the destination, etc)*

3. Discuss and list the potential impacts (negative and positive) that SECT might have on a destination.

4. Sustainable development, and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism both consider the host population as a vital participant in the process of tourism and tourism development. How can local people and communities be a part of the process? How would this impact commercial sexual exploitation of children?

## 1.3 Cultural Context



1. Role and/or view of women and children differ between societies.
2. Cultural values and traditions.
3. Community participation process in tourism development.

## 2.1 Definitions



### *Mini lecture*

To begin our examination of this phenomenon, clear definitions need to be established. We must be clear that this discussion is specific to children, and does not address the issues of adult prostitution or sex tourism.

## Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

The use of children for sexual gratification by adults for remuneration in cash or kind to the child, or a third person(s). It constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery. It includes prostitution, pornography, trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation.

*(Adapted from the Declaration of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, June 1996)*

## Child Sex Tourism

The sexual exploitation of a child by a person or persons travelling away from their own country or region who engages in sexual activities with the child. This usually involves some form of payment – either cash or items such as food, clothing or trinkets.

*(Source: Declaration of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, June 1996)*

## Child

The United Nations defines a child as a person under the age of 18 unless national laws state otherwise. Many countries however, have laws that define individuals younger than 18 as adults.

*(Source: Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1, 1989)*

## Organized Sex Tourism

Defined by WTO as “trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination.”

*(Source: WTO Statement On The Prevention Of Organized Sex Tourism, Resolution A/RES/338 (XI) 1995.)*



### Discussion Questions

1. In our country, at what age is a person legally an adult?
2. Reading the definition of CSEC, what “other forms” can you identify?  
*(expect answers like nude dancing, postcards, advertising language, massage, hostess, etc)*

## 3.1 Scope of the Issue



### Mini-lecture

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is, as stated earlier a global issue. Given the nature of the issue, reliable statistics are difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. Most estimates (ECPAT, UNICEF) put the number of children being drawn into the sex market at well over 1 million each year worldwide. The lack of accurate statistical data makes it difficult not only to identify how many children are affected, but also how many individuals travel to participate in SECT.

Review data



### Discussion Questions:

1. What areas of the world seem most affected by this problem? Why?
2. What might be some of the problems in collecting data on this subject? How would you go about collecting data?
3. Does SECT occur in our country?
4. Where do you think SECT occurs? (*Make a list of countries mentioned*)

## 3.2 Where does SECT occur?



### Mini-lecture

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) exists in almost every country. Child prostitution has often been blamed on tourists. However, child prostitution is first and foremost a local problem. Most of the clients of prostitution are local people. Recognizing this however, tourists do participate.

Travel and tourism has become an integral part of everyday life in many countries, and international travel is a common event for many people. The numbers of international travelers has grown significantly in the past decade, and World Tourism Organization (WTO) projections are for continued growth of tourism globally. Tourism is the number one industry worldwide in terms of employment and revenue. Sexual exploitation of children in tourism occurs wherever tourism occurs.

The relationship of tourism and CSEC has become a focus of international concern because evidence shows that the flow of tourists engaging in SECT is mainly from the economically developed countries in Western Europe, North America, Australasia and the Gulf States to less developed countries in Southeast Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. However, it is also a regional problem, because there are individuals in all regions who engage in SECT while traveling to nearby countries, or even within their own country. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children occurs wherever there is an opportunity.

WTO statistics are available on the WTO website at [www.world-tourism.org](http://www.world-tourism.org), or from their annual publications Yearbook of Tourism Statistics, or the Compendium of Tourism Statistics.



### Discussion Questions:

1. Do these patterns match other tourist flow patterns? If so, which?  
(*warm climate destinations, lower cost destinations, North-South, etc*)
2. What are the contributing factors to SECT flows? (*economics, access, marketing of "exotic" destinations, lack of knowledge about other cultures*)
3. Why is research so sparse and concrete numbers so difficult to obtain?



### Exercise:

Use WTO international tourism statistics to identify major tourist flows and discuss patterns, destinations/receiving countries vs sending countries (Industrialized vs Developing) etc.

## 3.3 Why does SECT occur?



There are a number of reasons that SECT occurs. These can be categorized as demand side and supply side reasons.



### Exercise:

Ask the class to self-select into small groups of about 4-6 people. Using the exercise handout, they are to identify and list demand side and supply side reasons that commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs. Allow about 10 minutes for this work. Then ask the groups to share these one at a time with the larger group. Create a list on the board of these reasons, categorized as Demand and Supply. Discuss these reasons. Add any of the following reasons not listed.

(Note: save the list for discussion later regarding possible actions to prevent or end SECT.)

## Demand side (tourists') reasons for the sexual exploitation of children in tourism include:



### **Anonymity**

When tourists are away from home, many feel a sense of freedom from responsibility and the social, moral or cultural constraints they feel at home. This sense of anonymity leads them to behave in a way they would never do at home among peers. It is a sense of “nobody knows me here – so why not?” For example, an individual who would never visit a brothel at home might consider doing so in another country because they know that no one from their hometown will know it happened.



### *Discussion:*

Have you ever been away from home and felt like you could do something you normally could not because there is no one to see you?



### **Cultural Ignorance**

Tourists travel to another country to experience a different culture and environment. When there are cultural differences such as language, social, economic or religious differences, visitors may make assumptions about what is acceptable within the host culture. The tourist then rationalizes his/her behaviour based on incorrect information and assumptions.

Sexual customs and morals differ between cultures and should be respected. What is acceptable behaviour in one country may be unacceptable in another (e.g. public display of affection or nudity).

*Can you think of examples?*



### *Exercise:*

To demonstrate lack of knowledge/assumptions we make about other cultures. What would you tell a tourist about our culture? How would you inform them? What do you know about the culture(s) of visitors to our country? What are the sources of our “knowledge?”



### **Rationalization – helping the poor**

A tourist may rationalize that SECT helps the poor. The visitor may think the child is helping to support her/his family, and that by purchasing sex with the child he/she is helping the child and her family economically.

### **Sense of superiority**

Travel can reinforce prejudice. Tourists may feel a sense of superiority -either culturally or economically- to individuals in the host country. Their prejudices lead them to consider persons in poorer countries as inferior and often they have no scruples about exploiting local people. They bring closed minds and see only what they want to see.

### **Fear of AIDS**

The fear of AIDS has raised the demand for virgins and younger sex partners. The misconception is that child sex partners are free of disease. The reality is that an adolescent with an immature reproductive tract is at a higher risk of infection.

### **Promotion**

The use of attractive young women in sexually suggestive advertising - sometimes referred to as the “sun, sand, sea and sex” approach to destination marketing may influence demand.

### **Supply generates demand**

In some countries, children are easily available to tourists as a child sex partner. These children are available in brothels, on the street, or in tourist areas. The availability of children as a sex partner gives the impression that it is culturally acceptable, and creates a powerful temptation for some.

## **Supply side (local) reasons for SECT**

### **Poverty**

Poverty is frequently cited as the predominant cause of commercial sexual exploitation of children. A growing body of research suggests that poverty is only one of several major contributors to the vulnerability of children. Socio-cultural factors including changing family and community dynamics, and rural-urban migration are also important factors.

### **Other causes include:**

- Economic disparity
- Lack of education
- Rural-urban migration
- Gender discrimination
- Family breakdown or dysfunction
- Consumerism
- Corruption

The role of girls and women differs between societies because of cultural values and traditions. In some cultures, girls (and women) suffer gender discrimination. A sense of obligation or powerlessness toward this situation may cause a young girl to enter the sex world against her will.

Lack of employment or changes in family structure including the loss of parent(s) may also make children vulnerable. In rural areas dependent on agriculture, limited opportunities for earning a living drives youth and families to urban areas. Without job skills and opportunity, prostitution may be seen as survival.

In many areas of the world, children are seen as a commodity to be sold or bonded into labor and/or prostitution. CSEC involves not only individual entrepreneurs, but often it is conducted by organized networks. Various strategies are used. Although there is evidence of families knowingly selling or pushing their children into sexual exploitation, most parents sell their children into the sex trade unwittingly. Families and children may be duped into believing that the child is going into a domestic job or some other form of labor; and will have a "better life." Alternately, children may actually be kidnapped and sold. Corruption and lack of accountability of public officers enables and even assists this.

Understanding the causes of CSEC is important to being able to identify actions to stop or to prevent it.



### *Exercise:*

As a large group, identify some of the role expectations for children in your culture. Consider the child's role within the family, in society, community life (religion, education, health, etc) and related to income generation. How might these factors influence sustainable tourism? How might they influence (encourage or discourage) commercial sexual exploitation of children?

## 3.4 Who is involved?



### Mini-lecture

**Tourists seeking sex with children** do not have identifiable characteristics. They look like most other tourists. They come from diverse cultures, occupations and social classes. They are of all ages, married and single. They include both business and leisure travelers. The majority of those engaging in sex with children are men, but women are also involved.

Most tourists do not intentionally travel seeking sex with children. They are considered “**situational abusers.**” These are the individuals who take advantage of the availability of child sex partners at a destination. They use many elements of the tourism industry in planning, booking and experiencing a holiday or business trip. Situational Abusers can be influenced by media, education, laws and peers to not participate.

Situational abusers differ from “**preferential child sex abusers**” or **paedophiles**. Preferential child sex abusers are individuals who prefer children who have reached or passed puberty as sex objects. Paedophiles have a true personality disorder, and their sexual interests focus on pre-pubescent children.<sup>7</sup> These individuals frequently have a network of communication and arrangements that provide access to children, and do not use standard tourist organizations such as travel agencies to book trips. These individuals use the Internet, private clubs and sex magazines to gain information and access to children in destinations around the world. In the host destinations, they use transportation modes, accommodations and local eating and drinking establishments. Their decision to travel with the intent to have sex with children may be influenced by national laws.



### Tourism Industry

The tourism industry is not responsible for the growth of SECT. Reputable tourism businesses do not knowingly or willingly participate in SECT. However, their services and facilities may be used. Tourists plan and book travel arrangements, travel on various modes of transportation and use tourism facilities at the host destination including accommodations, eating and drinking establishments, attractions and retail shops. Each of these provides an opportunity for the tourism industry to take action to prevent or stop the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. The international tourism industry has taken a strong position against SECT, and many individual businesses are taking action to prevent unintentional involvement. We will discuss specific international efforts later.

## Children

Children do not participate in sex tourism by choice. Children are sold, coerced or 'recruited' into sex tourism by individuals, family members or business people. Most children come from poor families. Cultural values and norms related to sex, the responsibility of children and a child's position within the family/community varies, and may influence decisions made by these families and children. Street children are often forced into it for survival. Children range in age from 8 to 18 years of age, but cases of younger children have been documented.

## Locals

Individuals as well as organized crime organizations are involved. Tourists are often willing to pay large amounts of money for sex with children, generating high profits for those selling the child. The trade in children, including trafficking and pornography represents a multi-billion dollar industry.



### *Discussion Questions:*

1. How does the role and responsibility of children in families vary in different cultures, and how might this influence the sexual exploitation of children in tourism?

## 3.5 Impact of SECT



### *Mini lecture*

Benefiting from SECT may appear profitable in the short-term, but it threatens tourism development, degrades the tourism product and image. It leaves behind social, cultural health and economic effects that need to be cured and paid for in the future. Sexual exploitation of children in tourism adversely affects not only the child, but also the community and the destination.

SECT endangers the child's physical and mental health, disrupts the child's development, and may cause serious lifelong consequences. Children are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. The physical disproportion between the adult and child can lead to torn or damaged genitalia that allows for easier transmission of viruses. Unfortunately, younger and younger children are being sought for sex in the mistaken belief that the risk of infection is less.

In addition to the health issues a child faces, they are vulnerable to further physical trauma that includes violence such as beatings, malnutrition, and substance abuse. Pregnancy, abortion, unwanted births and infertility may result as well.

Emotionally, victims of commercial sexual exploitation suffer from loss of self-esteem, their confidence is undermined, and their emotional development into responsible adults is compromised.

Children who are sexually exploited may also be ostracized by their families and communities.

## Destinations

Tourism is viewed as a major economic growth opportunity by most destinations. However, unplanned development and rapid growth have created negative as well as positive impacts as we discussed earlier. In seeking economic growth, some governments turned a blind eye to sex tourism, including the use of children; and in some instances even encouraged it as a component of their overall tourism development strategy. The promotion of "sand, sea, sun and sex" and the allure of beautiful young women in advertising suggested and even encouraged an attitude of sexual freedom.

Today, time and research is showing the real and potential damage to tourism development, and the tourism product. Governments and industry alike recognize the damage this can inflict on a destination and are taking steps to ensure a sustainable and responsible tourism development.



### Discussion

Using the WTO definition of sustainable tourism, discuss examples of how a destination or country can make positive changes. Consider who needs to be involved.

*Case Study - Thailand (see Annex 7)*

## 4.1 Background



### *Mini-lecture*

Technology and globalization have made SECT more accessible, immediate and widespread. The identification of SECT as a growing problem was brought into the international spotlight in the early 1990s primarily by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A group of NGO workers and other concerned individuals in 1990 formed a campaign to end child prostitution in Asian tourism called ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism). In 1996, ECPAT decided to widen the scope of its work to encompass the issues of child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and to broaden its focus to become an international NGO. As ECPAT took a broader focus, they revised their name to End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes to retain the acronym ECPAT.

International tourism industry organizations also began to address the issue of child sex tourism. The Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Association (UFTAA) was the first industry association to take an action in 1994 by adopting "The Child and Travel Agents' Charter". UFTAA's efforts were supported by the International Hotel and Restaurant Association-IH&RA (formerly known as International Hotel Association), and the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

## 4.2 World Congress



The event that focused global attention on the issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children occurred in 1996. The World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was convened in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 1996.

The Congress was attended by more than 1,300 participants from 130 countries. Representatives of 122 governments participated along with representatives from international agencies, industry, NGOs, concerned individuals, and youth from 8 countries. The Congress for the first time addressed commercial sexual exploitation of children as a growing and complex global phenomenon. It was the culmination of a global mobilization process initiated by ECPAT that included six regional consultations to gather input and support. The Congress was hosted by the Government of Sweden, and organized in cooperation with ECPAT, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Declaration and Agenda for Action was circulated globally prior to the congress, and adopted on the second day of meetings.

A second World Congress is scheduled for December 2001 in Yokohama Japan.

## 4.3 Tourism Sector Response



### *Mini Lecture (continued)*

Following the Stockholm Congress, the World Tourism Organization established the Child Prostitution and Tourism Task Force. In 2001, the task force name was officially changed to *Task Force to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism*. The Task Force is a global action platform of tourism-related players from the government and tourism industry sectors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and media associations whose aim is to prevent, uncover, isolate and eradicate the sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

The Task Force's main objectives are:

- to build awareness among the tourism sector, governments and tourists
- to encourage the tourism industry to engage in good and ethical practices
- to adopt professional codes of conduct and other self-regulatory measures
- to invite governments to take administrative and legal measures, such as designating focal points (contact persons) within their national tourism administration, establishing emergency hotlines, strengthening national legislation against sexual abuse of children in tourism and improving law enforcement.
- to encourage co-operation between the public and private sector, as well as between tourist generating and receiving countries, and
- to monitor the fight against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism networks at national and international level.



The task force is open to any interested individual or organization. The task force continues to meet twice annually at the International Tourism Fair (ITB) in Berlin in March and World Travel Mart (WTM) in London in November.

Most major international tourism industry associations have joined the task force campaign or taken a stance against SECT, including:

- International Federation of Youth Tour Operators (FIYTO)
- International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO)
- International Federation of Women's Travel Organizations (IFWTO)
- International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IH&RA)
- International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF/UITA /IUL)
- Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations (UFTAA)

- Confederation of the National Associations of Hotels, Restaurants, Cafés and Similar Establishments of the European Union and the European Economic Area (HOTREC)
- Group of National Travel Agents' and Tour Operators Associations within the EU (ECTAA)
- Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA)
- American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA)

These organizations, along with governments, law enforcement bodies, NGOs and individuals have mobilized in various ways.



UNICEF, ECPAT and other international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have developed numerous consumer awareness and tourism industry awareness materials in several languages. These materials are available free of cost to both consumers and tourism industry organizations.



### *Exercise:*

Look at the samples of NGO awareness pieces provided. Compare and discuss perceived effectiveness from a visual and content standpoint. From a cultural standpoint, how do they differ in their approaches? What cultural factors do you think influenced the creation of these individual pieces? (Expect answers like: time, language, etc)



The mobilization of the tourism industry has been more difficult. Several of the international tourism associations have adopted formal declarations against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, and produced brochures that include guidelines for members.



### *Discussion questions*

1. Why do you think it has been difficult to mobilize the tourism industry? (*expect answers like the lack of cohesiveness of the industry, cost, sensitivity of issue, fear of being identified with a negative problem, unsure how to take action, lack of knowledge or awareness of the issue*)
2. What are some of the potential problems in trying to create a campaign against SECT? Consider local, national and international factors.
3. What are some of the potential barriers to eliminating SECT internationally?



### Exercise:

Look at the two samples of industry declarations/policy documents provided. Who is the intended audience? Discuss the language used in the declaration. Is it strong/weak, a call to action or a statement? How would you back this declaration with action?



### Exercise:

Write a declaration against sexual exploitation of children in tourism for your class, school or community.



To date, there have been several effective industry initiatives, but more actions in a cohesive global approach are needed. These include:

In 1993, two major hotel associations in Taiwan initiated campaigns among their members to support ECPAT in combating child prostitution. They disciplined members known to encourage child prostitution in their rooms, used anti-child prostitution hang cards at reception, and issued a public statement of support and action.

Australian Customs officials distributed leaflets at international airports warning travelers about the Australian laws. ECPAT Australia has distributed brochures to Australian travel agents.

Italian travel agents include information on the ticket invoice/itinerary printed for clients, and Italian tour operators include information in their brochures.



### Exercise:

Review the two case studies provided. What are the strengths/weaknesses and application of each. How effective do you think they are or can be? Why?

*Case Study: Code of Conduct of the Tourism Industry (CC-Project)*

*Case Study: Youth Career Development Programme*



Several short videos to raise awareness about SECT have also been created for use on international carriers. These all are directed at travelers enroute to popular destinations, but present the information differently. We are going to watch these short videos – they each run approximately one minute. We will discuss them afterwards.



### *Show Video of different in-flight segments*

#### **“Toys”**

The following European airlines have agreed to show the spot free of charge during their long-distance flights: Lufthansa, Alitalia, Air Europa, Olympic Airways and the German charter airline LTU.

#### **“Not a Souvenir”**

This in-flight video is shown on Air France, AOM, Aérolyon, Finnair, and Corsair. Other carriers are welcome to contact the NGO Groupe Développement/France to show it on their flights.

#### **“The abuse of children is not a peccadillo”**

Used by Austrian Airlines on long-haul flights.



### *Discussion Questions*

1. Which segment did you like or dislike?
2. Which do you think is most effective? Why?
3. Why are several approaches needed?

## 4.4 Government response



### *Mini-lecture*

The international community has been strong in condemning the commercial sexual exploitation of children and calling for protection of the rights of children. However, there is no international body directly responsible for overseeing, investigating or monitoring the condition of children involved in SECT.

The United Nations through its bodies including UNICEF and WTO; and the International Labor Organization (ILO), can advise governments and industry of certain conditions, but ultimately rely on sovereign governments to take action. Interpol, can investigate and enforce legal commitments by governments. These agencies rely on cooperation from industry, government and NGOs to succeed in protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation.

Legislation and enforcement can be powerful deterrents to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

There are basically two types of national laws that apply to this issue.

## Age of consent

These exist in almost every country, but the age of consent varies widely from 12 to 18. The United Nations defines a child as “every human being under the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.” (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Penalties vary locally as well, and may be broken down into categories depending on the age of the child.

## Extra territoriality

These laws allow for prosecution of national citizens for crimes committed abroad, regardless of whether the offence is punishable under the law of the country where it occurred. Several countries have general laws identify various crimes and offenses, including sexual abuse of children, but in some countries, specific extra territoriality laws have been passed which focus on sexual crimes against children. Extra territoriality laws and the related penalties vary greatly between countries.

To date, over 30 governments have passed extraterritoriality laws relating to sexual exploitation of children in tourism. These laws enable governments to prosecute their own nationals for crimes committed outside their country. (See the background notes for a complete list of countries with extra-territorial legislation.)



### Optional Exercise:

Review samples of these laws posted on the task force website ([www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children)) . How do these differ? Why do they differ?



The European Commission has also taken a strong position against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The EC provided nearly 1 million Euros toward specific campaign efforts of awareness building and education, carried out by WTO in collaboration with ECPAT Sweden and partners, the International Federation of Journalists and the German branch of terre des hommes. In 1998, the European Commission conducted the Eurobarometer, a survey of public awareness on the issue within the European Commission countries. A large number (85%) of those surveyed within the EC are aware of the problem of SECT. There was almost universal moral condemnation (92%) of the practice. (Source: 1998 Eurobarometer executive summary)



### Law Enforcement

Interpol's involvement in the investigation of offences against children began in 1989 following the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Interpol helps coordinate the international fight to eradicate the exploitation of, and crimes against, children.

Many national law enforcement agencies are also involved in the campaign locally and internationally. Many countries have hotlines for reporting suspicious activities.



### Discussion questions

1. What might be some of the problems in enforcing laws against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism?
2. What might be some of the problems in prosecuting SECT cases?  
(Expect answers like *politics, distance, proving the abuse, differing laws and jurisdictional issues*)

## 5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The tourism industry along with governments, NGOs, local citizens and the tourist themselves all have responsibilities in the campaign to end SECT.



### Exercise:

Have students identify responsibilities of each of the five groups. Use the handout. You may want to refer back to the list of reasons for SECT which you developed earlier. Discuss their answers, then compare to following.



### Government

#### 1. Acknowledge the problem exists

- (a) As a tourism receiving country – citizens are victims
- (b) As a sending country – citizens are perpetrators
- (c) U.N. Convention on Rights of Child
  - i. Signed by 198 countries (all but USA & Somalia)
  - ii. Must be institutionalized

#### 2. Take action

- (a) Prevention through education
- (b) Effective provision of health services, community education and training, family and community development
- (c) Reporting & monitoring mechanisms
- (d) Laws
  - i. reform existing laws
  - ii. create new laws
  - iii. implement and enforce laws

#### 3. Legislation

- (a) Domestic
  - Age of consent
  - Child labor
  - Criminal - punishment of abusers
- (b) Extraterritorial
  - Citizens are punished under their own country's laws for actions committed while in another country.
- (c) Enforcement
  - Immigration and border controls
  - Local law enforcement
  - International cooperation

#### 4. Research

- (a) Encourage research by existing research and education centres
- (b) Fund research

### Tourism Industry

1. Inform travelers
2. Education of personnel
3. Socially responsible tourism
4. Advertising and promotion is not exploitative
5. Voluntary monitoring and self-regulation
  - (a) Codes of Conduct
  - (b) Association punitive disciplinary actions
  - (c) Contracts & business partnerships
  - (d) Reporting mechanisms

### Non-governmental organizations

1. Issue identification and advocacy
2. Research
3. Education
4. Victim assistance
5. Monitoring

### Local citizens

1. Do not participate
2. Report suspicious behaviour
3. Protect children
4. Fight corruption
5. Lobby government for action
6. Create safe, nurturing communities

### Tourists

1. Respect local culture
2. Do not participate
3. Report suspicious behaviour
4. Be an informed traveler



### *Discussion Questions*

1. What is the role of media?
2. Who should be responsible for educating the tourism industry and the public about SECT?
3. What would you do if you were working at a hotel and you observed a guest and a local in what you considered a suspicious situation?

This concludes the classroom portion of the module. Suggestions for in-depth projects on this subject follow.

# In-depth Project Suggestions

1. Select a country to research related to SECT. Is sexual exploitation of children in tourism identified as a concern within this country (either as a receiving or sending country)? What is the government position? What actions have been taken to date?

The following countries are suggested only because of the availability of information:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, United States.

2. You have been asked to deliver a 20-minute presentation to the local tourism industry (or a sector such as hotel staff or taxi drivers) about the negative effects of SECT and what they can do to stop or prevent it. Develop and present.
3. Use an artistic medium other than print to create a presentation about SECT. For example, use music, art or a play. You are to determine the approach and the targeted audience – the industry, children or the traveler.
4. Develop and conduct a survey locally to determine industry or public awareness and opinion about SECT. Report findings to your class (and local community or government officials and media).

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of resources, and omission is not intended as a judgment of any site.

## Websites

Task Force to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism [www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children). It can also be accessed through the World Tourism Organization website at [www.world-tourism.org](http://www.world-tourism.org)

ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism [www.theCode.org](http://www.theCode.org)

ECPAT Sweden [www.ecpatSweden.org](http://www.ecpatSweden.org)

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) [www.ifj.org/working/issues/children/guidelines.html](http://www.ifj.org/working/issues/children/guidelines.html)

An Internet platform to prevent the sexual exploitation of children in tourism created by the NGO terre des hommes-Germany [www.child-hood.com](http://www.child-hood.com)

Coalition Against Trafficking Women Factbook on Global Sexual Exploitation [www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/catw/factbook.htm](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/catw/factbook.htm)

INTERPOL, Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offences against children [www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws](http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws)

UN, State Party Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

The Protection Project at John Hopkins University. Comprehensive information on trafficking legislation globally. [www.protectionproject.org](http://www.protectionproject.org)

Focal Point against sexual exploitation of children [www.focalpointngo.com](http://www.focalpointngo.com)

Childwatch International Research Network. Includes excellent links. [www.childwatch.uio.no](http://www.childwatch.uio.no)

Casa Alianza, an independent, non profit organization working in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. [www.casa-alianza.org](http://www.casa-alianza.org)

Two lists of published materials are on the Task Force website and on the Focalpoint website.

# Annexes

1. WTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (1999)
2. Declaration & Agenda for Action of the Stockholm World Congress (1996)
3. WTO Statement for the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism (1995)
4. World Tourism Organization Statistics (2000)
5. Policy documents: Joint IATA/WTO Statement, IATA Final Resolution, IH&RA Resolution and UFTAA Child and Travel Agents' Charter, as samples
6. Logo of the International Campaign to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism
7. Case Study of Thailand
8. Case Study: Code of Conduct of the Travel and Tourism Industry
9. Case Study: Youth Career Development Programme
10. Video *in-flight* spots information
11. Power Point presentation of the lecture

# The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

We, Members of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) representatives of the world tourism industry, delegates of States, territories, enterprises, institutions and bodies that are gathered for the General Assembly at Santiago, Chile on this first day of October 1999,

**Reasserting** the aims set out in Article 3 of the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization, and aware of the “decisive and central” role of this Organization, as recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in promoting and developing tourism with a view to contributing to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

**Firmly believing** that, through the direct, spontaneous and non-mediatized contacts it engenders between men and women of different cultures and lifestyles, tourism represents a vital force for peace and a factor of friendship and understanding among the peoples of the world,

**In keeping** with the rationale of reconciling environmental protection, economic development and the fight against poverty in a sustainable manner, as formulated by the United Nations in 1992 at the “Earth Summit” of Rio de Janeiro and expressed in Agenda 21, adopted on that occasion,

**Taking into account** the swift and continued growth, both past and foreseeable, of the tourism activity, whether for leisure, business, culture, religious or health purposes, and its powerful effects, both positive and negative, on the environment, the economy and the society of both generating and receiving countries, on local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as on international relations and trade,

**Aiming** to promote responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism in the framework of the right of all persons to use their free time for leisure pursuits or travel with respect for the choices of society of all peoples,

**But convinced** that the world tourism industry as a whole has much to gain by operating in an environment that favours the market economy, private enterprise and free trade and that serves to optimize its beneficial effects on the creation of wealth and employment,

**Also firmly convinced** that, provided a number of principles and a certain number of rules are observed, responsible and sustainable tourism is by no means incompatible with the growing liberalization of the conditions governing trade in services and under whose aegis the enterprises of this

sector operate and that it is possible to reconcile in this sector economy and ecology, environment and development, openness to international trade and protection of social and cultural identities,

**Considering** that, with such an approach, all the stakeholders in tourism development – national, regional and local administrations, enterprises, business associations, workers in the sector, non-governmental organizations and bodies of all kinds belonging to the tourism industry, as well as host communities, the media and the tourists themselves, have different albeit interdependent responsibilities in the individual and societal development of tourism and that the formulation of their individual rights and duties will contribute to meeting this aim,

**Committed**, in keeping with the aims pursued by the World Tourism Organization itself since adopting resolution 364(XII) at its General Assembly of 1997 (Istanbul), to promote a genuine partnership between the public and private stakeholders in tourism development, and wishing to see a partnership and cooperation of the same kind extend, in an open and balanced way, to the relations between generating and receiving countries and their respective tourism industries,

**Following up on** the Manila Declarations of 1980 on World Tourism and of 1997 on the Social Impact of Tourism, as well as on the Tourism Bill of Rights and the Tourist Code adopted at Sofia in 1985 under the aegis of WTO,

**But believing** that these instruments should be complemented by a set of interdependent principles for their interpretation and application on which the stakeholders in tourism development should model their conduct at the dawn of the twenty-first century,

**Using**, for the purposes of this instrument, the definitions and classifications applicable to travel, and especially the concepts of “visitor”, “tourist” and “tourism”, as adopted by the Ottawa International Conference, held from 24 to 28 June 1991 and approved, in 1993, by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session,

**Referring** in particular to the following instruments:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948;
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966;
- Warsaw Convention on Air Transport of 12 October 1929;

- Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation of 7 December 1944, and the Tokyo, The Hague and Montreal Conventions in relation thereto;
- Convention on Customs Facilities for Tourism of 4 July 1954 and related Protocol;
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 23 November 1972;
- Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 10 October 1980;
- Resolution of the Sixth General Assembly of WTO (Sofia) adopting the Tourism Bill of Rights and Tourist Code of 26 September 1985;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child of 26 January 1990;
- Resolution of the Ninth General Assembly of WTO (Buenos Aires) concerning in particular travel facilitation and the safety and security of tourists of 4 October 1991;
- Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development of 13 June 1992;
- General Agreement on Trade in Services of 15 April 1994;
- Convention on Biodiversity of 6 January 1995;
- Resolution of the Eleventh General Assembly of WTO (Cairo) on the prevention of organized sex tourism of 22 October 1995;
- Stockholm Declaration of 28 August 1996 against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;
- Manila Declaration on the Social Impact of Tourism of 22 May 1997;
- Conventions and recommendations adopted by the International Labour Organisation in the area of collective conventions, prohibition of forced labour and child labour, defence of the rights of indigenous peoples, and equal treatment and non-discrimination in the work place;

affirm the right to tourism and the freedom of tourist movements,

state our wish to promote an equitable, responsible and sustainable world tourism order, whose benefits will be shared by all sectors of society in the context of an open and liberalized international economy, and

solemnly adopt to these ends the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

## [Article 1] Tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies

1. The understanding and promotion of the ethical values common to humanity, with an attitude of tolerance and respect for the diversity of religious, philosophical and moral beliefs, are both the foundation and the consequence of responsible tourism; stakeholders in tourism development and tourists themselves should observe the social and cultural traditions and practices of all peoples, including those of minorities and indigenous peoples and to recognize their worth;
2. Tourism activities should be conducted in harmony with the attributes and traditions of the host regions and countries and in respect for their laws, practices and customs;
3. The host communities, on the one hand, and local professionals, on the other, should acquaint themselves with and respect the tourists who visit them and find out about their lifestyles, tastes and expectations; the education and training imparted to professionals contribute to a hospitable welcome;
4. It is the task of the public authorities to provide protection for tourists and visitors and their belongings; they must pay particular attention to the safety of foreign tourists owing to the particular vulnerability they may have; they should facilitate the introduction of specific means of information, prevention, security, insurance and assistance consistent with their needs; any attacks, assaults, kidnappings or threats against tourists or workers in the tourism industry, as well as the wilful destruction of tourism facilities or of elements of cultural or natural heritage should be severely condemned and punished in accordance with their respective national laws;
5. When travelling, tourists and visitors should not commit any criminal act or any act considered criminal by the laws of the country visited and abstain from any conduct felt to be offensive or injurious by the local populations, or likely to damage the local environment; they should refrain from all trafficking in illicit drugs, arms, antiques, protected species and products and substances that are dangerous or prohibited by national regulations;
6. Tourists and visitors have the responsibility to acquaint themselves, even before their departure, with the characteristics of the countries they are preparing to visit; they must be aware of the health and security risks inherent in any travel outside their usual environment and behave in such a way as to minimize those risks;

## [Article 2] Tourism as a vehicle for individual and collective fulfilment

1. Tourism, the activity most frequently associated with rest and relaxation, sport and access to culture and nature, should be planned and practised as a privileged means of individual and collective fulfilment; when practised with a sufficiently open mind, it is an irreplaceable factor of self-education, mutual tolerance and for learning about the legitimate differences between peoples and cultures and their diversity;
2. Tourism activities should respect the equality of men and women; they should promote human rights and, more particularly, the individual rights of the most vulnerable groups, notably children, the elderly, the handicapped, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples;
3. The exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly sexual, especially when applied to children, conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and is the negation of tourism; as such, in accordance with international law, it should be energetically combatted with the cooperation of all the States concerned and penalized without concession by the national legislation of both the countries visited and the countries of the perpetrators of these acts, even when they are carried out abroad;
4. Travel for purposes of religion, health, education and cultural or linguistic exchanges are particularly beneficial forms of tourism, which deserve encouragement;
5. The introduction into curricula of education about the value of tourist exchanges, their economic, social and cultural benefits, and also their risks, should be encouraged;

## [Article 3] Tourism, a factor of sustainable development

1. All the stakeholders in tourism development should safeguard the natural environment with a view to achieving sound, continuous and sustainable economic growth geared to satisfying equitably the needs and aspirations of present and future generations;
2. All forms of tourism development that are conducive to saving rare and precious resources, in particular water and energy, as well as avoiding so far as possible waste production, should be given priority and encouraged by national, regional and local public authorities;

3. The staggering in time and space of tourist and visitor flows, particularly those resulting from paid leave and school holidays, and a more even distribution of holidays should be sought so as to reduce the pressure of tourism activity on the environment and enhance its beneficial impact on the tourism industry and the local economy;
4. Tourism infrastructure should be designed and tourism activities programmed in such a way as to protect the natural heritage composed of ecosystems and biodiversity and to preserve endangered species of wildlife; the stakeholders in tourism development, and especially professionals, should agree to the imposition of limitations or constraints on their activities when these are exercised in particularly sensitive areas: desert, polar or high mountain regions, coastal areas, tropical forests or wetlands, propitious to the creation of nature reserves or protected areas;
5. Nature tourism and ecotourism are recognized as being particularly conducive to enriching and enhancing the standing of tourism, provided they respect the natural heritage and local populations and are in keeping with the carrying capacity of the sites;

#### [Article 4] Tourism, a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and contributor to its enhancement

1. Tourism resources belong to the common heritage of mankind; the communities in whose territories they are situated have particular rights and obligations to them;
2. Tourism policies and activities should be conducted with respect for the artistic, archaeological and cultural heritage, which they should protect and pass on to future generations; particular care should be devoted to preserving and upgrading monuments, shrines and museums as well as archaeological and historic sites which must be widely open to tourist visits; encouragement should be given to public access to privately-owned cultural property and monuments, with respect for the rights of their owners, as well as to religious buildings, without prejudice to normal needs of worship;
3. Financial resources derived from visits to cultural sites and monuments should, at least in part, be used for the upkeep, safeguard, development and embellishment of this heritage;
4. Tourism activity should be planned in such a way as to allow traditional cultural products, crafts and folklore to survive and flourish, rather than causing them to degenerate and become standardized;

## [Article 5] Tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities

1. Local populations should be associated with tourism activities and share equitably in the economic, social and cultural benefits they generate, and particularly in the creation of direct and indirect jobs resulting from them;
2. Tourism policies should be applied in such a way as to help to raise the standard of living of the populations of the regions visited and meet their needs; the planning and architectural approach to and operation of tourism resorts and accommodation should aim to integrate them, to the extent possible, in the local economic and social fabric; where skills are equal, priority should be given to local manpower;
3. Special attention should be paid to the specific problems of coastal areas and island territories and to vulnerable rural or mountain regions, for which tourism often represents a rare opportunity for development in the face of the decline of traditional economic activities;
4. Tourism professionals, particularly investors, governed by the regulations laid down by the public authorities, should carry out studies of the impact of their development projects on the environment and natural surroundings; they should also deliver, with the greatest transparency and objectivity, information on their future programmes and their foreseeable repercussions and foster dialogue on their contents with the populations concerned;

## [Article 6] Obligations of stakeholders in tourism development

1. Tourism professionals have an obligation to provide tourists with objective and honest information on their places of destination and on the conditions of travel, hospitality and stays; they should ensure that the contractual clauses proposed to their customers are readily understandable as to the nature, price and quality of the services they commit themselves to providing and the financial compensation payable by them in the event of a unilateral breach of contract on their part;
2. Tourism professionals, insofar as it depends on them, should show concern, in co-operation with the public authorities, for the security and safety, accident prevention, health protection and food safety of those who seek their services; likewise, they should ensure the existence of suitable systems of insurance and assistance; they should accept the reporting obligations prescribed by national regulations and pay fair compensation in the event of failure to observe their contractual obligations;

3. Tourism professionals, so far as this depends on them, should contribute to the cultural and spiritual fulfilment of tourists and allow them, during their travels, to practise their religions;
4. The public authorities of the generating States and the host countries, in cooperation with the professionals concerned and their associations, should ensure that the necessary mechanisms are in place for the repatriation of tourists in the event of the bankruptcy of the enterprise that organized their travel;
5. Governments have the right – and the duty - especially in a crisis, to inform their nationals of the difficult circumstances, or even the dangers they may encounter during their travels abroad; it is their responsibility however to issue such information without prejudicing in an unjustified or exaggerated manner the tourism industry of the host countries and the interests of their own operators; the contents of travel advisories should therefore be discussed beforehand with the authorities of the host countries and the professionals concerned; recommendations formulated should be strictly proportionate to the gravity of the situations encountered and confined to the geographical areas where the insecurity has arisen; such advisories should be qualified or cancelled as soon as a return to normality permits;

The press, and particularly the specialized travel press and the other media, including modern means of electronic communication, should issue honest and balanced information on events and situations that could influence the flow of tourists; they should also provide accurate and reliable information to the consumers of tourism services; the new communication and electronic commerce technologies should also be developed and used for this purpose; as is the case for the media, they should not in any way promote sex tourism;

## [Article 7] Right to tourism

1. The prospect of direct and personal access to the discovery and enjoyment of the planet's resources constitutes a right equally open to all the world's inhabitants; the increasingly extensive participation in national and international tourism should be regarded as one of the best possible expressions of the sustained growth of free time, and obstacles should not be placed in its way;
2. The universal right to tourism must be regarded as the corollary of the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay, guaranteed by Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7.d of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

3. Social tourism, and in particular associative tourism, which facilitates widespread access to leisure, travel and holidays, should be developed with the support of the public authorities;
4. Family, youth, student and senior tourism and tourism for people with disabilities, should be encouraged and facilitated;

## [Article 8] Liberty of tourist movements

1. Tourists and visitors should benefit, in compliance with international law and national legislation, from the liberty to move within their countries and from one State to another, in accordance with Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; they should have access to places of transit and stay and to tourism and cultural sites without being subject to excessive formalities or discrimination;
2. Tourists and visitors should have access to all available forms of communication, internal or external; they should benefit from prompt and easy access to local administrative, legal and health services; they should be free to contact the consular representatives of their countries of origin in compliance with the diplomatic conventions in force;
3. Tourists and visitors should benefit from the same rights as the citizens of the country visited concerning the confidentiality of the personal data and information concerning them, especially when these are stored electronically;
4. Administrative procedures relating to border crossings whether they fall within the competence of States or result from international agreements, such as visas or health and customs formalities, should be adapted, so far as possible, so as to facilitate to the maximum freedom of travel and widespread access to international tourism; agreements between groups of countries to harmonize and simplify these procedures should be encouraged; specific taxes and levies penalizing the tourism industry and undermining its competitiveness should be gradually phased out or corrected;

So far as the economic situation of the countries from which they come permits, travellers should have access to allowances of convertible currencies needed for their travels;

## [Article 9] Rights of the workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry

1. The fundamental rights of salaried and self-employed workers in the tourism industry and related activities, should be guaranteed under the supervision of the national and local administrations, both of their States of origin and of the host countries with particular care, given the specific constraints linked in particular to the seasonality of their activity, the global dimension of their industry and the flexibility often required of them by the nature of their work;
2. Salaried and self-employed workers in the tourism industry and related activities have the right and the duty to acquire appropriate initial and continuous training; they should be given adequate social protection; job insecurity should be limited so far as possible; and a specific status, with particular regard to their social welfare, should be offered to seasonal workers in the sector;
3. Any natural or legal person, provided he, she or it has the necessary abilities and skills, should be entitled to develop a professional activity in the field of tourism under existing national laws; entrepreneurs and investors - especially in the area of small and medium-sized enterprises - should be entitled to free access to the tourism sector with a minimum of legal or administrative restrictions;
4. Exchanges of experience offered to executives and workers, whether salaried or not, from different countries, contributes to foster the development of the world tourism industry; these movements should be facilitated so far as possible in compliance with the applicable national laws and international conventions;
5. As an irreplaceable factor of solidarity in the development and dynamic growth of international exchanges, multinational enterprises of the tourism industry should not exploit the dominant positions they sometimes occupy; they should avoid becoming the vehicles of cultural and social models artificially imposed on the host communities; in exchange for their freedom to invest and trade which should be fully recognized, they should involve themselves in local development, avoiding, by the excessive repatriation of their profits or their induced imports, a reduction of their contribution to the economies in which they are established;
6. Partnership and the establishment of balanced relations between enterprises of generating and receiving countries contribute to the sustainable development of tourism and an equitable distribution of the benefits of its growth;

## [Article 10] Implementation of the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

1. The public and private stakeholders in tourism development should cooperate in the implementation of these principles and monitor their effective application;
2. The stakeholders in tourism development should recognize the role of international institutions, among which the World Tourism Organization ranks first, and non-governmental organizations with competence in the field of tourism promotion and development, the protection of human rights, the environment or health, with due respect for the general principles of international law;
3. The same stakeholders should demonstrate their intention to refer any disputes concerning the application or interpretation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism for conciliation to an impartial third body known as the World Committee on Tourism Ethics.

# Declaration & Agenda for Action of the Stockholm World Congress (1996)

This Declaration and Agenda for Action were unanimously accepted by delegates at the World Congress on Wednesday 28 August 1996

## Declaration

1. We, gathered in Stockholm for the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, representing the Governments of 119 countries, together with non-governmental organisations, the End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) campaign, UNICEF and other agencies within the family of the United Nations, and other concerned organisations and individuals worldwide, hereby commit ourselves to a global partnership against the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

## The Challenge

2. Every day, more and more children around the world are subjected to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Concerted action is needed at the local, national, regional and international levels to bring an end to the phenomena.
3. Every child is entitled to full protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This is reaffirmed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international legal instrument of universal significance (of which there are 187 States Parties). States are required to protect the child from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of the child victim.
4. According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, and their rights are to be enjoyed without discrimination of any kind. In all matters affecting the child, the views of the child should be given due weight, in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

5. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children's rights. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.
6. Poverty cannot be used as a justification for the commercial sexual exploitation of children, even though it contributes to an environment which may lead to such exploitation. A range of other complex contributing factors include economic disparities, inequitable socio-economic structures, dysfunctioning families, lack of education, growing consumerism, urban-rural migration, gender discrimination, irresponsible male sexual behaviour, harmful traditional practices, armed conflicts and trafficking of children. All these factors exacerbate the vulnerability of girls and boys to those who would seek to procure them for commercial sexual exploitation.
7. Criminals and criminal networks take part in procuring and channeling vulnerable children toward commercial sexual exploitation and in perpetuating such exploitation. These criminal elements service the demand in the sex market created by customers, mainly men, who seek unlawful sexual gratification with children. Corruption and collusion, absence of and/or inadequate laws, lax law enforcement, and limited sensitisation of law enforcement personnel to the harmful impact on children, are all further factors which lead, directly or indirectly, to the commercial sexual exploitation of children . It may involve the acts of a single individual, or be organised on a small scale (eg. family and acquaintances) or a large scale (eg. criminal network).
8. A wide range of individuals and groups at all levels of society contribute to the exploitative practice. This includes intermediaries, family members, the business sector, service providers, customers, community leaders and government officials, all of whom may contribute to the exploitation through indifference, ignorance of the harmful consequences suffered by children, or the perpetuation of attitudes and values that view children as economic commodities.
9. The commercial sexual exploitation of children can result in serious, lifelong, even life threatening consequences for the physical, psychological, spiritual, moral and social development of children, including the threat of early pregnancy, maternal mortality, injury, retarded development, physical disabilities and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Their right to enjoy childhood and to lead a productive, rewarding and dignified life is seriously compromised.

10. While laws, policies and programmes exist to counter the commercial sexual exploitation of children, greater political will, more effective implementation measures, and adequate allocation of resources are needed to give effect to the spirit and letter of these laws, policies and programmes.

11. The primary task of combatting the commercial sexual exploitation of children rests with the State and families. The civil society also has an essential role to play in preventing and protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation. It is imperative to build a strong partnership between Governments, international organisations and all sectors of society to counter such exploitation.

## The Commitment

12. The World Congress reiterates its commitment to the rights of the child, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and calls upon all States in cooperation with national and international organisations and civil society to:

- Accord high priority to action against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and allocate adequate resources for this purpose;
- Promote stronger cooperation between States and all sectors of society to prevent children from entering the sex trade and to strengthen the role of families in protecting children against commercial sexual exploitation;
- Criminalise the commercial sexual exploitation of children, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children, and condemn and penalise all those offenders involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that the child victims of this practice are not penalised;
- Review and Revise, where appropriate, laws, policies, programmes and practices to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- Enforce laws, policies and programmes to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation and strengthen communication and cooperation between law enforcement authorities;
- Promote adoption, implementation and dissemination of laws, policies, and programmes supported by relevant regional, national and local mechanisms against the commercial sexual exploitation of children;

- Develop and Implement comprehensive gender-sensitive plans and programmes to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, to protect and assist the child victims and to facilitate their recovery and reintegration into society;
- Create a climate through education, social mobilisation, and development activities to ensure that parents and others legally responsible for children are able to fulfill their rights, duties and responsibilities to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation;
- Mobilise political and other partners, national and international communities, including intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations, to assist countries in eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and
- Enhance the role of popular participation, including that of children, in preventing and eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

13. The World Congress adopts this Declaration and Agenda for Action to assist in protecting child rights, particularly the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant instruments, to put an end to the commercial sexual exploitation of children worldwide.

## Agenda for Action

1. The Agenda for Action aims to highlight existing international commitments, to identify priorities for action and to assist in the implementation of relevant international instruments (see Annex I). It calls for action from States, all sectors of society, and national, regional, and international organisations, against the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### 2. Coordination and Cooperation :

#### (i) Local/National Levels

- (a) urgently strengthen comprehensive, cross-sectoral and integrated strategies and measures, so that by the year 2000 there are national agenda(s) for action and indicators of progress, with set goals and time frame for implementation, targeted to reducing the number of children vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation and nurturing an environment, attitudes and practices responsive to child rights;

- (b) urgently develop implementation and monitoring mechanism(s) or focal point(s) at the national and local levels, in cooperation with civil society, so that by the year 2000 there are data bases on children vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, and on their exploiters, with relevant research and special attention to disaggregating data by age, gender, ethnicity, indigenous status, circumstances influencing commercial sexual exploitation, and respect for confidentiality of the child victims especially in regard to public disclosures;
- (c) foster close interaction and cooperation between the government and non-government sectors to plan, implement and evaluate measures against the commercial sexual exploitation of children, coupled with campaigns to mobilise families and communities to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation, and with adequate allocation of resources;

#### **(ii) Regional/International Levels**

- (d) promote better cooperation between countries and international organisations, including regional organisations, and other catalysts which have a key role in eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS, UNHCR, IOM, the World Bank/IMF, INTERPOL, UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, UNFPA, the World Tourism Organization, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Centre for Human Rights, the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, each taking guidance from the Agenda for Action in their activities in accordance with their respective mandates;
- (e) advocate and mobilise support for child rights, and ensure that adequate resources are available to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation; and
- (f) press for full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by State Parties, including requirements for reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in accordance with existing deadlines, and encourage follow-up of countries' progress towards full realisation of child rights in the context of other relevant United Nations organs, bodies and mechanisms, including the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children.

### 3. Prevention:

- (a) provide children with access to education as a means of improving their status and make primary education compulsory and available free to all;
- (b) improve access and provide relevant health services, education, training, recreation and a supportive environment to families and children vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, including those who are displaced, homeless, refugees, stateless, unregistered, in detention and/or in state institutions;
- (c) maximise education on child rights and incorporate, where appropriate, the Convention on the Rights of the Child into formal and non-formal education for all communities, families and children;
- (d) initiate gender-sensitive communication, media and information campaigns to raise awareness and educate government personnel and other members of the public about child rights and the illegality and harmful impact of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and promote responsible sexual attitudes and behaviour in society, in keeping with the child's development, sense of dignity and self-esteem;
- (e) promote child rights in family education and family development assistance, including an understanding that both parents are equally responsible for their children, with special intervention to prevent sexual violence against children;
- (f) identify or establish peer education programmes and monitoring networks to counter the commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- (g) formulate or strengthen and implement gender-sensitive national social and economic policies and programmes to assist children vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, families and communities in resisting acts that lead to the commercial sexual exploitation of children, with special attention to family abuse, harmful traditional practices and their impact on girls, and to promoting the value of children as human beings rather than commodities; and reduce poverty by promoting gainful employment, income generation and other supports;
- (h) develop or strengthen, implement and publicise relevant laws, policies and programmes, to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- (i) review laws, policies, programmes and practices which lead to or facilitate the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adopt effective reforms;
- (j) mobilise the business sector, including the tourism industry, against the use of its networks and establishments for the commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- (k) encourage media professionals to develop strategies which strengthen the role of the media in providing information of the highest quality, reliability and ethical standards concerning all aspects of commercial sexual exploitation of children; and
- (l) target those involved with commercial sexual exploitation of children with information, education and outreach campaigns and programmes to promote behavioural changes to counter the practice.

#### 4. Protection:

- (a) develop or strengthen and implement laws, policies and programmes to protect children and to prohibit the commercial sexual exploitation of children, bearing in mind that the different types of perpetrators and ages and circumstances of victims require differing legal and programmatic responses;
- (b) develop or strengthen and implement national laws to establish the criminal responsibility of service providers, customers and intermediaries in child prostitution, child trafficking, child pornography, including possession of child pornography, and other unlawful sexual activity;
- (c) develop or strengthen and implement national laws, policies and programmes that protect child victims of commercial sexual exploitation from being penalised as criminals and ensure that they have full access to child-friendly personnel and support services in all sectors, and particularly in the legal, social and health fields;
- (d) in the case of sex tourism, develop or strengthen and implement laws to criminalise the acts of the nationals of the countries of origin when committed against children in the countries of destination (“extra-territorial criminal laws”); promote extradition and other arrangements to ensure that a person who exploits a child for sexual purposes in another country (the destination country) is prosecuted either in the country of origin or the destination country; strengthen laws and law enforcement, including confiscation and seizure of

assets and profits, and other sanctions, against those who commit sexual crimes against children in destination countries; and share relevant data;

- (e) in the case of trafficking of children, develop and implement national laws, policies and programmes to protect children from being trafficked within or across borders and penalise the traffickers; in cross border situations, treat these children humanely under national immigration laws, and establish readmission agreements to ensure their safe return to their countries of origin accompanied by supportive services; and share relevant data;
- (f) identify and strengthen or establish networks between national and international law enforcement authorities, including INTERPOL, and civil society to monitor against the commercial sexual exploitation of children; set up special units among law enforcement personnel, with adequate resources and child-friendly facilities, to counter the commercial sexual exploitation of children; appoint liaison officers aimed at guaranteeing child rights in police investigations and judicial procedures for the exchange of key information; and train all law enforcement personnel on child development and child rights, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child, other relevant human rights standards and national legislation;
- (g) identify and encourage the establishment of national and international networks and coalitions among the civil society to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation; foster action and interaction among communities, families, non-governmental organisations, the business sector, including tourist agencies, the World Tourism Organization, employers and trade unions, computer and technology industry, the mass media, professional associations, and service providers to monitor and report cases to the authorities, and to adopt voluntary ethical codes of conduct; and
- (h) create safe havens for children escaping from commercial sexual exploitation, and protect those who provide assistance to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation from intimidation and harassment.

## 5. Recovery and Reintegration:

- (a) adopt a non-punitive approach to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in keeping with the rights of the child, taking particular care that judicial procedures do not aggravate the trauma already experienced by the child and that the response of the system be coupled with legal aid assistance, where appropriate, and provision of judicial remedies to the child victims;

- (b) provide social, medical, psychological counselling and other support to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and their families, paying particular attention to those with sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and with a view to promoting the self-respect, dignity and rights of the child;
- (c) undertake gender-sensitive training of medical personnel, teachers, social workers, non-governmental organisations and others working to help child victims of commercial sexual exploitation on child development and child rights, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights standards;
- (d) take effective action to prevent and remove societal stigmatisation of child victims and their children; facilitate the recovery and reintegration of child victims in communities and families; and where institutionalisation of the child is necessary, ensure that it is for the shortest possible period in accordance with the child's best interests;
- (e) promote alternative means of livelihood with adequate support services to child victims and their families so as to prevent further commercial sexual exploitation; and
- (f) adopt not only legal sanctions against the perpetrators of sexual crimes against children, but also socio-medical and psychological measures to create behavioural changes on the part of the perpetrators.

## 6. Child Participation:

- (a) promote the participation of children, including child victims, young people, their families, peers and others who are potential helpers of children so that they are able to express their views and to take action to prevent and protect children from commercial sexual exploitation and to assist child victims to be reintegrated into society; and
- (b) identify or establish and support networks of children and young people as advocates of child rights, and include children, according to their evolving capacity, in developing and implementing government and other programmes concerning them.

## Annex to the Agenda for Action

The Agenda for Action refers to many international instruments, recommendations and targets which have bearing on children and their families. They include the following:

- the 1930 ILO Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour - the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;
- the 1957 ILO Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour;
- the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- the 1973 ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment;
- the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- the 1990 World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and its Plan of Action;
- the 1992 Programme of Action of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights;
- the 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- the 1994 Cairo Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Population and Development;
- the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit on Social Development;
- the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

## the 1996

Programme of Action of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for the Prevention of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

The Agenda for Action takes note of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children. It acknowledges the initiatives of many international and regional organisations, including INTERPOL, World Tourism Organization (in particular, the 1995 World Tourism Organization Statement on the Prevention of Organised Sex Tourism) and the Council of Europe (in particular, the 1991 Recommendation No. R91 11 concerning Sexual Exploitation, Pornography and Prostitution of, and Trafficking in, Children and Young Adults).

It also recognises the process of evolving a possible Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

# WTO Statement for the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism (1995)

Adopted by the General Assembly of the **World Tourism Organization** at its eleventh session - Cairo (Egypt), 17-22 October 1995

[Resolution A/RES/338 (XI)]

**Whereas** the WTO Tourism Bill of Rights and Tourist Code (Sofia, 1985) calls on States and individuals to prevent any possibility of using tourism to exploit others for prostitution purposes;

**Having consulted** international and national organizations concerned, both governmental and non-governmental, as well as the representatives of the tourism sector;

**Considering** the preoccupation of the international community over the persistence of organized sex tourism which, for the purpose of this statement, can be defined as “trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination”;

**Aware** of the grave health as well as social and cultural consequences of this activity for both tourist receiving and sending countries, especially when it exploits gender, age, social and economic inequality at the destination visited;

## **The General Assembly**

**Rejects** all such activity as exploitative and subversive to the fundamental objectives of tourism in promoting peace, human rights, mutual understanding, respect for all peoples and cultures, and sustainable development;

**Denounces** and **condemns** in particular child sex tourism, considering it a violation of Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations, 1989), and requiring strict legal action by tourist sending and receiving countries;

## Requests governments of both tourist sending and receiving countries to

**Mobilize** their competent departments, including National Tourism Administrations, to undertake measures against organized sex tourism;

**Gather** evidence of organized sex tourism and encourage education of concerned government officials and top executives in the tourism sector about the negative consequences of this activity;

**Issue** guidelines to the tourism sector insisting that it refrains from organizing any forms of sex tourism, and from exploiting prostitution as a tourist attraction;

**Establish** and **enforce**, where applicable, legal and administrative measures to prevent and eradicate child sex tourism, in particular through bilateral agreements to facilitate, inter alia, the prosecution of tourists engaged in any unlawful sexual activity involving children and juveniles;

**Assist** intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned in taking action against organized forms of sex tourism;

**Appeals** to donor countries, aid agencies and other sources of finance to engage in tourism development projects seeking to enhance and diversify the supply of tourism services at the destinations affected by sex tourism, so as to foster employment opportunities in the tourism sector, develop its linkages with other sectors of the national economy, and contribute to tourism's social and economic sustainability;

**Commends** the tourism companies and tourism industry organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations such as ECPAT, which have already undertaken measures against sex tourism, in particular with respect to the sexual exploitation of children and juveniles;

### Appeals to the travel trade to

1. Join efforts and cooperate with non-governmental organizations to eliminate organized sex tourism, at both the origin and destination of travel flows, by identifying and focusing on the critical points at which this activity can proliferate;
2. Educate staff about the negative consequences of sex tourism, including its impact on the image of the tourism sector and tourist destinations, and invite staff to find ways to remove commercial sex services from the tourism offer;

3. Develop and strengthen professional codes of conduct and industry self-regulatory mechanisms against the practice of sex tourism;
4. Adopt practical, promotional and commercial measures, such as, for example, positive self-identification of enterprises which refrain from engaging in sex tourism; banning commercial sex services, in particular involving children, on the contracted tourism premises; providing information to travellers about health risks of sex tourism, etc.;
5. Warn tourists particularly against engaging in child sex tourism, denouncing its criminal nature and the manner in which children are forced into prostitution;
6. Encourage the media to assist the tourism sector in its action to uncover, isolate, condemn and prevent all organized forms of sex tourism; Invites countries and their tourism entities to contribute to the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, organized jointly by the Swedish Government and UNICEF, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 1996.

# World Tourism Organization Statistics

World Tourism grew by an estimated 7.4 per cent in 2000 –its highest growth rate in nearly a decade and almost double the increase of 1999.

According to results received by WTO through August 2001 the total number of international arrivals reached a record 699 million in 2000: nearly 50 million more arrivals were recorded.

All regions of the world hosted more tourists in 2000, although the fastest developing region continued to be East Asia and the Pacific with a growth rate of 14.7 per cent and some 14 million more tourists than in 1999.

Receipts from international tourism climbed to US\$ 476 billion in 2000, an increase of 4.5 per cent over the previous year. Worldwide the average receipt per arrival amounted to US\$ 680.

Since the 1950s, tourism has not only grown quickly but has also changed significantly. For years, tourism was characterized by concentration:

- (a) geographic: 15 countries, all in Western Europe and North America, attracted 97 per cent of the world total;
- (b) seasonal coverage (summer); and
- (c) in terms of purpose of trip (leisure – summer holidays)

Today, tourism is more diverse. In 2000, the receipts registered for international tourism amounted to over US\$ 1 billion per year in 59 countries and territories out of approximately 200. Travel tends to be spread out in all over the year thanks to the growing fragmentation of school and work holidays; and it is much more varied in terms of purpose of trip, length of stay and accommodation. Many people combine shorter summer holidays with short breaks the rest of the year. This has generated a substantial increase in the cultural, sports, adventure, rural and cruise tourism segments, along with a variety of combinations. The business sector has benefited from the substantial growth of congresses and incentive tourism.

Expectations for 2001 are for a more moderate pace of growth. Given the cooler economic climate it would be a good result if the tourism sector could consolidate the record growth of 2000 and add a modest increase.

WTO predicts that the tourism sector will expand by an average of 4.1 per cent a year to over 1.56 billion international travelers by the year 2020.

*(Adapted: World Tourism Organization. [www.world-tourism.org](http://www.world-tourism.org))*

## 1. IATA/WTO

### (International Air Transport Association/ World Tourism Organization)

#### Joint Statement on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

Yokohama, 17 December 2001

IATA and WTO are sensitive to the formally expressed wishes of our respective membership to deter child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

Our organizations take particular account of the WTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (Santiago, Chile 1999) which clearly states that “the exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly sexual, especially when applied to children, conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and is the negation of tourism”.

We also recall the IATA AGM Final Resolution Condemning Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (1996) and the WTO Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism (1995).

It is absolutely clear from the above policy declarations that the leaders of our respective constituencies are convinced that the well being of children has to be respected and protected everywhere.

We take the opportunity of this Second World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama) to urge those in positions of power and authority to take specific measures to counter sexual exploitation of children, by adapting their legislation to criminalize child sex abuse and introducing extraterritorial prosecution, in particular through the reinforcement of judicial cooperation between States and the designation of national focal points.

We, for our part, will continue to encourage airlines and other international travel organizations, including airport authorities, to multiply their awareness-raising efforts towards passengers, especially by means of articles in in-flight magazines and by screening in-flight video clips or other spots in airport passenger lounges, departure gates and on airport buses.

We and our respective organizations favour actions by the tourism industry, in particular the adoption of self-regulatory measures, such as codes of conduct and good practices, to complement existing legislation, as well as the education and training of staff at home and at tourism destinations.

Our two organizations will continue to work for closer public-private tourism-sector partnerships at national, regional and international levels to jointly combat sexual offences on minors in travel and tourism networks and call upon all tourism stakeholders to effectively support the international campaign for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism.

It is our sincere hope that by our actions, we shall help those engaged in carrying out the measures needed to advance the above policies and that we shall encourage others to add their strength to this alliance.

(Source: [www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children))

## 2. IATA (International Air Transport Association)

### Final Resolution Condemning Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Geneva, 4 November 1996

WHEREAS the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, meeting in Stockholm in August 1996, drew urgent attention to the growing number of children so exploited;

WHEREAS the Congress also urged a global partnership which would mobilize the business sector, including the tourism industry, against the use of its networks and establishments for illegal purposes;

The 52nd Annual General Meeting

SUPPORTS measures by governments to combat such exploitation of children;

ENDORSES the practical measures being taken by the industry to educate staff, inform passengers, cooperate with government agencies, and establish guidelines covering advertising and doing business with tour operators and hotels;

APPLAUDS the actions taken by airlines and other international travel partners and organizations to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

(Source: [www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children))

*IATA is the trade association of the world's international airline industry. Originally founded in 1919, it now groups together nearly 270 airlines, including the world's largest. These airlines fly over 95 percent of all international scheduled air traffic.*

*IATA has the mission to "represent and serve the airline industry". Continual efforts through IATA ensure that people, freight and mail can move around the vast global airline network as easily as if they were on a single airline in a single country - and that Members' aircraft can operate safely, securely, efficiently and economically - under clearly defined and understood rules.*

### 3. IH&RA (International Hotel & Restaurant Association)

#### Resolution against the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Mexico City, 30 October 1996

The International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IH & RA) and its member associations:

- Observe with great concern that the sexual exploitation of children (prostitution, production of pornographic material, etc.) is on the increase worldwide;
- Recognize that, unfortunately, some child sex abusers may attempt to use hotels as the location where they commit their crimes

The member associations of the IHA:

- Condemn the sexual exploitation of children in any form or manner;
- Recommend to all of their members, independent establishments, as well as chains, regardless of the category (from 0 to 5 star “deluxe”):
  - to consider measures to prevent the use of their premises for the commercial sexual exploitation of children
  - to consider measures to prevent ease of access to child prostitution or child pornography.
  - To call upon all national governments to take all appropriate measures to effectively eradicate the sexual exploitation of children.

(Source: [www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children))

*IH&RA is the only global organization dedicated exclusively to serving the needs of the hospitality industry worldwide. Representing over 750,000 establishments in more than 150 countries, IH&RA provides a voice at international level for an industry which comprises more than 300,000 hotels and 8 million restaurants world-wide, employs 60 million people and contributes US\$ 950 billion to the global economy*

## 4. UFTAA (Universal Federation of Travel Agent's Associations)

### Child and Travel Agent's Charter

1. The Members and Affiliates of **UFTAA**, signatories of the present Charter, pledge to combat the prostitution of children related to so-called "sex tourism" and to protect the child victims of such tourists by
  - supporting the measures taken by governments to counter the sexual exploitation of children, and
  - informing their foreign colleagues of the penalties imposed on tourists who commits acts which involve the use of children for the purposes of sexual gratification.
2. Mindful of the importance of their role in protecting the environment, people, countries and regions to which they send tourists, the Members and Affiliates of **UFTAA**, signatories of the present Charter, pledge to exercise the utmost vigilance with regard to such activities of their customers as are brought to their attention. The signatory travel agents of this Charter will act according to the dictates of their conscience and in accordance with the legislation of the countries concerned.
3. Mindful of the profound mental, moral, social and physical damage caused to the child victims of "sex tourism", the Members and Affiliates of **UFTAA** pledge to give every assistance to the various organizations, campaigns and charitable associations concerned with the welfare of child victims of "sex tourism" to help restore the dignity, physical and mental health of such children.
4. In full agreement with article 28 (3) of the International Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Members and Affiliates of **UFTAA** recommend the fullest cooperation between travel agents in all countries such that the combat against "sex tourism" which victimizes children is waged on all fronts and in all countries.
5. The Members and Affiliates of **UFTAA** pledge never to promote or assist in the promotion of programmes, tours or travel whose purpose is the sexual exploitation of children.

6. The Members and Affiliates of UFTAA will take care to inform their customers of the consequences to tourists of the sexual exploitation of children.
7. In accordance with article 34 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Members and Affiliates of UFTAA pledge to protect children against all forms of exploitation and sexual violence attributable to the activities of tourists.

**The signature of the present Charter entails the unqualified acceptance of all the foregoing articles.**

*UFTAA is an organization with an international purpose. It has no right to interfere in national concerns other than through its National Associations.*

# Logo for the International Campaign to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism



# Case Study: Thailand's Position On Child Prostitution

## Introduction

The Kingdom of Thailand, lies in the heart of Southeast Asia, roughly equidistant between India and China. It shares borders with Myanmar to the west and north, Lao P.D.R. to the north and northeast, Cambodia to the east and Malaysia to the south. Thailand has a population of approximately 60 million people and is predominantly Buddhist. Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, and His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the ninth king of the Chakri Dynasty, ascended the throne in 1946 and is the longest reigning Thai monarch.

Thailand has long been a popular tourist destination. Steeped in history and a rich culture, Thailand offers visitors beautiful scenery and some of the world's finest beaches. Bangkok is a major business center and international city. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) was established on March 18, 1960 as the first organization in Thailand to be responsible specifically for the promotion of tourism.

In the 1970s and '80s Thailand also gained a reputation as a "rest & recreation" destination for soldiers fighting in the Vietnam War. As demand for prostitutes grew, increasing numbers of young girls were forced into prostitution. Organized sex tourism developed, and was integrated into economic development efforts during the mid-'70s as well. Commercial exploitation by individual business operators expanded into organized crime; and poverty, corruption, and lax law enforcement contributed to its growth.

Recognition of the severity of the child prostitution problem and the long-term negative affects of this type of tourism motivated Royal Thai Government leaders to take a firm stance against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Government officials also recognize that this is a broader social issue, and that local people are primary abusers. Today, child protection is one of the priorities for the government.

## Legislation

Several important pieces of legislation address the sexual exploitation of children. The Prostitution Prevention and Suppression Act of 1996 established stringent penalties for customers, procurers; as well as parents who knowingly send their children into the sex trade.

In 1997, the Act on Measures to Prevent and Suppress Trafficking in Women and Children was passed to provide for humane treatment and protection of trafficked persons. These measures are documented in the special United Nations Report of E/CN.4/1999/71/Add.1. Further, the Labour Protection Act of 1998 states that the employment of children below 15 years of age is against the law.

These laws have enabled the government to take action against those engaged in the sexual exploitation of children, but government officials acknowledge that enforcement of the laws has been difficult. Enforcement remains a problem, but the government is working to improve this.

## Prevention

Thailand is also taking steps to do more, especially in the area of prevention. The government is working specifically on improving education and social programs, and building awareness to respect children's rights. All children are now required to complete at least nine years of education. The government grants educational scholarships as well as long-term interest free loans for children from lower-income families. These actions have resulted in a decline in child workers aged 15-17 years in all sectors of the economy from 230,000 in March 1998 to 55,000 in July 2000.<sup>8</sup>

Programs and activities are being organized with resources from the government to increase public awareness about the seriousness of the problem and the rights of children. The public is encouraged to inform authorities of any child being exploited. Particular focus in this awareness building effort is placed on teachers, parents and community leaders to understand the issues so that they can teach children to protect themselves.

The government is also working to reduce poverty. A major policy of the government is a village fund to aid local economic development. Under this policy, each village will receive one million baht to develop local economic diversification strategies including skills development, and the production and sale of local products.

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8 Koumelis, Theodore. Travel Daily News, Monday, July 09, 2001.

In June 1999, the Government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two concerned non-governmental organizations to have representatives from these NGOs monitor child prostitution cases that come before the authority. Standard procedures will be followed to ensure basic rights and treatments of the victims as specified in the agreement.

## Destination Marketing

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is also deeply committed to the global campaign to end child sex tourism. For many years, Thailand has worked aggressively to discourage all forms of sex tourism and change the image of Thailand as a largely male destination.

The marketing strategies of TAT include promotion of Thailand as a family destination and as a destination for women. These targeted marketing campaigns are generating positive results. In 2000, visits by families with children under the age of 15 grew 10.76% over the previous year, and visits by women were up 12% in the same period.

TAT has also sponsored training on the issue of child sex tourism for the tourism industry, and supports industry efforts such as the Code of Conduct for the Travel and Tourism Industry. TAT monitors tour operators and tourism promotions; and reports suspicious efforts to authorities. All advertising and marketing campaigns carefully avoid any images that encourage sex tourism of any kind. Information regarding the laws and penalties is disseminated to the public through various channels including the TAT website.

Changing local actions and attitudes will take time but the Thai government and Tourism Authority of Thailand are committed to promoting a positive image of the country and protecting their youth.

### Sources:

Tourism Authority of Thailand website [www.tat.or.th](http://www.tat.or.th)

Thailand's Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Thailand position paper on protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism, presented by Mr. Pradech Phayakvichien, Governor, Tourism Authority of Thailand at the TAT/WTO regional consultation, Bangkok, Thailand, July, 2001.

# Case Study:

## Code of Conduct of the Tourism Industry to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation (CC-Project)

The Code of Conduct of the Tourism Industry to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation (CC-Project) is an effort initiated in 1999 by ECPAT Sweden and Scandinavian tour operators to actively contribute to stopping the sexual exploitation of children in tourism (SECT). Originally designed as a certification scheme for tour operators, the project has expanded and broadened its scope to include other sectors of the travel and tourism industry. The project is now a joint effort of the ECPAT organizations in Sweden, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and respect Austria. The first step is to implement the project on a European level and long-term to implement it on a global level.

### The Code of Conduct commits suppliers of tourism services to five criteria:

#### 1. Establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children

This means that tourism businesses draw up clear guidelines for the position to be adopted by staff towards sexual exploitation of children. For example, the red-light district should not be pointed out as a positive part of the nightlife, either in catalogues or by staff at the destination.

#### 2. Educate and train all the staff in the country of origin and at the destinations

The education is continuous and explains what the staff must do in their daily work to combat CSEC and how they should deal with any crime situations. This education is kept up-to-date through, for example, articles in in-house newspapers and via the Intranet.

### 3. Include a clause in contracts with suppliers to make a common repudiation of child sexual exploitation

The work is conducted step-by-step. The tour operators begin with introducing a clause on mutual dissociation in their hotel contracts. Before a contract is prepared the agent ensures that the hotel manager understands the meaning of the clause and shares a common view in repudiating SECT.

### 4. Provide information to travelers

Means to inform travelers include catalogues, brochures, in-flight videos, ticket-slips, websites etc.

### 5. Inform local “key persons” at the destination, for example police, restaurant and bar owners

The travel and tourism industry should make it clear that sexual exploitation of children in tourism is not something that the industry desires but is something that they actively seek to counteract.



In September 2000, a meeting of more than forty representatives of international tourism associations, tour operators and child care organizations was held in Bad Oyenhausen Germany to discuss implementation of a Code of Conduct regarding the protection of children against commercial sexual exploitation. The participants of this meeting agreed on the implementation of an international Code of Conduct and agreed on the five criteria. The participants also agreed to establish a joint working group to move the work forward and develop an evaluation procedure and monitoring system. The joint working group in subsequent meetings established a permanent steering committee, and obtained funding for a Secretariat (through 2001) to produce information and training kits and update the website at [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org). The Secretariat is housed at the World Tourism Organization headquarters in Madrid, Spain.

# Actions

As of June 2001, close to 100 percent of the Swedish tour operators and 70 percent of the Scandinavian tour operators have adopted and are now in the process in implementing the Code at six pilot destinations:

## **Star Tours:**

1. Thailand
2. Dominican Republic
3. Brazil
4. Goa, India

## **SLG**

1. Thailand
2. Dominican Republic
3. Cuba

## **Apollo**

1. Thailand
2. Dominican Republic
3. Sri Lanka

## Sample of integration of code by Star Tours/Fritidsresor

### **Star Tour's clause of contracts with hotels condemning child sex tourism**

The commercial sexual exploitation of children around the world is an increasing problem. Specifically, we can note the growing problem with child prostitution in tourist destination countries.

Star Tour/Fritidsresor recognises that the problem in some extent is linked with tourism and our firm belief is that sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental abuse of a child's human rights and dignity. For this reason Star Tour/Fritidsresor has decided to contribute in the task of tackling the problem and in this way protecting children from sexual exploitation. A way for the tourist sector to achieve this is by promoting good practises and self-regulation. In this work we recognise the influence we have as a major player in the tourist sector.

Even if we have no reason at all to believe that this kind of abuse has been carried out in your hotel, hotels often are the scene of the abuse, whether we like it or not. For this reason we urge you to support us in the campaign against this problem. We believe that, by staying vigilant and taking a few simple steps, you will ensure that neither your hotel - nor its good reputation - is compromised.

We would also like to take the opportunity to inform you about our position if it reaches our knowledge that commercial child abuse has taken place at one hotel contracted by Star Tour/Fritidsresor. If the abuse has been a result of an employee at the hotel acting as intermediary we will from now take the right, with immediately effect, to cancel any agreement or contract.

### **Star Tour/Fritidsresor: Information for travelers**

"It makes us happy ... when we read about your co-operation with ECPAT", writes a family in a letter to us at Fritidsresor. The positive response that we receive from our customers as regards our environment and social involvement makes us happy too. ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes) is just one of the international organisations that we in Fritidsresor are members of and support. Studies show that there are several clear links between tourism and increased trafficking in children for sexual purposes, particularly in the Third World. Therefore, it is important for us as travel agents to contribute to the work of combating trafficking in children for sexual purposes. We can raise awareness concerning this problem by disseminating information to our customers and colleagues, and also by imposing demands on our sub-contractors, for example, hotel owners."

Sources:

[www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)

Ecpat Sweden, Memorandum Re: the Steering Committee of the CC-project, June 19, 2001.

Muntarhorn, Vitat. Report of the Steering Committee Chair to Participants of the Bad Oeynhausen Conference. August 25, 2001

# Case Study: The Youth Career Development Programme

The Youth Career Development Programme (YCDP) was started by the Pan Pacific Hotel Company to provide hospitality training and life skills to youth who have little or no opportunities for career development. The joint programme with UNICEF began in Bangkok in 1995 with a 20-week programme for 10 young girls. The scheme has now become an industry benchmark, winning support from the international community, the International Hotels and Restaurant Association, and the Thai Education Ministry.

The Youth Career Development Programme includes vocational training, the teaching of English, and basic life skills. Trainees spend a total of 20 weeks in the programme, covering technical areas such as housekeeping, laundry, engineering, kitchen, food and beverage service. A typical day will include 3 hours of theory instruction and 4 hours of hand-on training in technical areas. Each week, they spend 3 hours of basic English-as-a-second-language training as well as sessions on life skill topics such as computer skills training, service etiquette, and first-aid training.

The programme is monitored or taught by hotel executives who act as “teachers” in career placement and education activities. It costs approximately US\$400 to fund a student each year.

The YCDP has attracted participation from 17 other hotels in Thailand, and now provides training for dozens of girls annually. By the end of 2001, more than 450 youths – mostly young girls, will have graduated from the YCDP. Sixty percent of graduates are still employed in the hospitality industry, and 24% are continuing their education, with just under half of this group enrolled in universities.

The YCDP in Bangkok is a model for programmes in other areas. For example, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Pan Pacific Sonargaon brought in 9 orphans (ages 8-12) from a local orphanage to provide them with education, English language skills, and internship opportunities until they finish school. When the hotel implemented a similar programme 18 years ago, four orphans were trained and now work at the hotel as employees.

A similar programme at The Sari Pan Pacific Jakarta will provide orphan teenagers, left on their own at the age of 17, with education and training in housekeeping skills to enable them to find future jobs in private homes as houseboys, maids, and drivers.

The inspiration for this innovative programme came from Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts' President Ichigo (Ishee) Umehara who states, "One of our corporate core values is to seek enrichment of mankind and to make a difference to the lives of people. To this end, a community programme should always go hand in hand with the establishment of each new Pan Pacific hotel."

The Youth Career Development Programme has received global recognition for its innovative and grassroots approach. In 1997, the International Hotel and Restaurant Association endorsed it as the best way to fight child sex tourism. In 1998, UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) declared this programme one of the 10 best for prevention of Aids. In 1999, the programme was presented to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum has supported this program publicly since 1991 and under their sponsorship the YCDP, now known as Youth Career Initiative has secured funding to continue and expand around the world.

The following three inflight videos can be viewed either through the WTO website ([http://www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children/index.htm](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children/index.htm)) or by using the enclosed CD-Rom.

## 1. In-flight video “Toys” against child prostitution in tourism

The in-flight video “Toys” against child prostitution in tourism was prepared by the German child rights organisation terre des hommes’ in co-operation with the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. It is addressed to all long-distance flight tourists and aims to point out the problem of sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

The in-flight spot “Toys” was awarded with the UN-Grand Award for excellent public relations in Tokyo by the United Nations in co-operation with the International Public Relations Association (IPRA).

The following European Airlines have agreed to show the spot free of charge during their long-distance flights: Lufthansa, Alitalia, Air Europa, Olympic Airways, Sabena and the German charter airline LTU.

## 2. In-flight video “souvenir” against child sex tourism

Since 15 March 1999, AIR FRANCE has diffused this video on long-haul flights to raise awareness about the problem of child sex tourism.

Air France was the first French airline to draw the attention of its passengers to this question. This video has been made in partnership with the organisation ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes).

It is screened at a particularly sensitive moment for travellers at the start of their trip to a far destination, and informs viewers that there are laws to punish abusers when they are abroad, but also on their return home.

A simple message reminds us that no one can abuse a child with impunity, no matter where the offence is committed. It is particularly aimed at a category of tourists that is on the increase: the “occasional” sex tourists, i.e. those for whom the aim of the trip is not to have sex with children but who, once at the holiday destination, might be tempted because young children are on offer.

The video is in English and French so as to reach the greatest number of passengers. This film was created and produced by the LINTAS Agency. Its diffusion is exempt from copyright payment and can be adapted with the logo of the companies in the end of the spot.

This in-flight video is actually diffused on Air France, AOM, Aérolyon, Finnair, Corsair and Swissair. Other carriers are welcome to contact ECPAT France and show it on their flights.

### 3. Austrian in-flight video against the Sexual Exploitation of Children Through "Sex-Tourism"

In 1999, the production of the in-flight video "The abuse of children is not a peccadillo" was commissioned by the Austrian Ministry of Youth and Family Affairs in co-operation with the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Division for Tourism, and UNICEF. This in-flight-video is designed to raise awareness of the problem of the so-called "child sex tourism" from a humanitarian, social, health and legal perspective explicitly and to focus on the criminal consequences of child sex abuse abroad (e.g. the extraterritorial prosecution of sexual crimes committed on children abroad). With this initiative a general public consciousness shall be created that sexual encroachments on children must be rejected by any means, independent of the place in which the crime occurs, and the public shall be informed that such crimes will be pursued with criminal sanctions worldwide.

Starting in autumn 1999, AUSTRIAN AIRLINES is showing this in-flight-video on board of flights scheduled to a selection of destinations (e.g. South Africa and India). By showing the video on board of air planes, travellers shall be encouraged to regard their socio-ethical responsibilities vis-a-vis all humans, and in particular children.

Austrian Airlines has become a nominee for the UNITED NATIONS VIENNA CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD 2000 for the contribution of the airline to the protection of children in the world.

The Austrian Government would be glad to make this in-flight video available to any private or public partner / organisation that is interested to join in the efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of children throughout the world.

## Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

**What is it?**

**Relationship to Tourism?**

1

## Sustainable Tourism

"Sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems."

(Source: World Tourism Organization)

2

## Responsible Tourism

### Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Article 2.3 The exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly sexual, especially when applied to children, conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and is the negation of tourism; as such, in accordance with international law, it should be energetically combated with the cooperation of all the States concerned and penalized without concession by the national legislation of both the countries visited and the countries of the perpetrators of these acts, even when they are carried out abroad;

3

## Cultural Context

Cultural values and traditions differ and may affect the approach taken to the sexual exploitation of children

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is not a value or belief of any culture.

4

## Definitions

### Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

The use of children for sexual gratification by adults for remuneration in cash or kind to the child, or a third person(s). It constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery. It includes prostitution, pornography, and the trafficking and sale of children as well as other forms of sexual exploitation.

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### Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism Also referred to as Child Sex Tourism

The sexual exploitation of a child by a person or persons who engages in sexual activities with the child while traveling away from their own country or region. This usually involves some form of payment – either cash or items such as food, clothing or trinkets.

#### Child

The United Nations defines a child as a person under the age of 18 unless national laws state otherwise. Many countries however, have laws that define individuals younger than 18 as adults.

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## 1 Million + Children Annually



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## Children Involved in CSEC (Estimated)

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| China              | 200,000+        |
| Dominican Republic | 25,000          |
| India              | 300,000-400,000 |
| Pakistan           | 20,000-40,000   |
| Philippines        | 100,000         |
| Sri Lanka          | 20,000-30,000   |
| Taiwan             | 60,000          |
| Thailand           | 100,000-250,000 |
| Venezuela          | 40,000          |

Source: *Estimates from 2007 and 2008* presented by UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

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## Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT)



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## Where Does it Occur?

### Industrial to Developing Countries

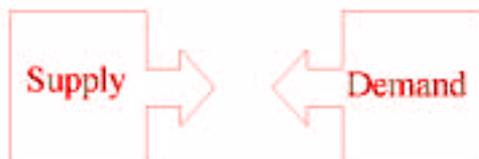
|               |   |                     |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| Europe, Japan | → | Asia, Latin America |
| North America |   | Caribbean, Africa,  |
| Japan         |   | Eastern Europe      |

### Regional

|                  |   |                    |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| Japan            | → | Southeast Asia     |
| Western Europe   |   | Eastern Europe     |
| U. S. and Canada |   | Caribbean / Mexico |

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## Why does it occur?



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## Demand reasons

- Anonymity
- Cultural ignorance
- Rationalization...helping poor
- Racist attitudes
- Sense of economic superiority
- Plentiful supply stimulates demand
- Demand stimulates supply

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## Local Reasons

- Poverty
- Economic disparity
- Lack of education
- Rural-urban migration
- Gender discrimination
- Family breakdown or dysfunction
- Consumerism
- Corruption

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## Child Sex Tourists

### Situational Abusers

Individuals who take advantage of the availability of child sex partners at a destination.

### Preferential child sex abusers

Individuals who prefer children who have reached or passed puberty as sex objects.

### Paedophiles

Individuals who have a true personality disorder, and their sexual interests focus on pre-pubescent children.

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## Tourism is a Vehicle

- Tourism Industry is not to blame, but reputable travel companies often used
- Opportunity for industry to educate, build consumer awareness and actively work to prevent involvement.

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## The Victims

- Ages 8-18
- Majority are girls, but boys are victims too
- Most suffer permanent physical and psychological damage

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## Negative Impacts

- Health risks - especially HIV/AIDS and STDs
- Social and cultural damage
- Damage to image of destination and tourism industry
- Undermines sustainable tourism development

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## The Global Campaign

- **1990** ECPAT formed to combat child prostitution in Asia
- **1996** World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden
- **1997** *Child Prostitution and Tourism* task force formed by WTO
- **2001** Task force name changed 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress, Yokohama Japan

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## Task Force to protect children from sexual exploitation in tourism

- The mission:  
"To prevent, uncover, isolate and eradicate the exploitation of children in sex tourism."

[www.world-tourism.org/protect\\_children](http://www.world-tourism.org/protect_children)

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## Task Force main objectives

- to build awareness among the tourism sector, governments and tourists
- to encourage the tourism industry to engage in good and ethical practices
- to adopt professional codes of conduct and other self-regulatory measures,
- to encourage co-operation between the public and private sector, as well as between tourist generating and receiving countries.

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- to invite governments to take administrative and legal measures, such as designating focal points (contact persons) within their national tourism administration, establishing emergency hotlines, strengthening national legislation against sexual abuse of children in tourism and improving law enforcement
- to monitor the fight against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism networks at national and international level.

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## Task Force Partners

- WTO
- Governments
- Tourism Industry associations
- ECPAT and other NGOs
- Media associations

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## Industry Participants include:

### International:

- FIYTO
- IATA
- IFTO
- IPWTO
- IH&RA
- IUF/UITA/IUL
- UFTAA

### Regional:

- COTAL
- ECTAA
- HOTREC
- PATA

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## What is Being Done

- Awareness campaigns
  - consumers
  - industry
- Declarations by Industry Organizations

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## Brazil's campaign



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## Industry Initiatives

- Hotel association campaigns
- Code of Conduct of the Tourism Industry
- Italian Travel Agent information
- Youth Career Development Programme

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## IH&RA's brochure



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## In-flight videos

- Directed at situational abusers and shown during flight en-route to destination.
- Lufthansa
- Air France
- Austrian Airlines

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## Government Role

“To take strong and appropriate action, through the development and enforcement of specific legislation measures, against any kind of illegal, abusive or exploitative tourist activity, including sexual exploitation/abuse, in recognition of the fact that such activities have particularly adverse impacts and pose significant social, health and cultural threats, and that all countries have a role to play in the efforts to stamp them out.”

Source: Resolution of United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, 19-20 April, 1996. Document E/CN.4/1996/L.6

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## National Legislation

- Age of Consent
  - Exist in almost every country
  - Vary widely from 12 to 18 years of age
  - Penalties vary widely too
- Extra-territoriality
  - Allow for prosecution of national citizens for crimes committed while in another country.

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## Sex with Children is a Crime

30+ Countries have extra-territoriality laws including:

|           |          |             |                |
|-----------|----------|-------------|----------------|
| Algeria   | Ethiopia | Laos        | Slovenia       |
| Australia | Finland  | Luxembourg  | Spain          |
| Austria   | France   | Mexico      | Sweden         |
| Belgium   | Germany  | Morocco     | Switzerland    |
| Cyprus    | Iceland  | Netherlands | Taiwan         |
| Canada    | Ireland  | New Zealand | Thailand       |
| China     | Italy    | Norway      | United Kingdom |
| Denmark   | Japan    | Portugal    | United States  |

## Industry Can:

- Inform travelers
- Educate personnel
- Use sustainable tourism practices
- Ensure advertising & promotion is not exploitative
- Voluntary monitoring & regulation

## Staff Education

- What SECT is, the laws, the risks
- How to recognize when it is occurring
- What to do
  - reporting
  - documenting
  - preventing

## Display Information

- Windows
- Brochures
- Desktop
- Counter Cards



- Use logo on business materials
  - bag tags
  - business cards
  - literature



- Use resources to inform clients

## Sample Resources



## What Can Individuals Do?

- Familiarize yourself with the laws
- Report suspicions or crimes
- Discuss the issue with others
- Support the campaign
- Say "NO"

- "...to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, this is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson