



NEWSLETTER

Child pornography and child sex tourism

ECPAT UK has for many years monitored international media coverage of the abuse of children by British nationals who travel abroad. Currently, ECPAT UK knows of over 70 cases of confirmed or alleged abuse by UK nationals across the globe including Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. As early as 1996 ECPAT UK was successful in lobbying the British government to introduce laws to combat child sex tourism. However, there have only been four convictions in the UK for offences committed abroad. There is no denying the threat posed to children when British sex offenders leave the country, but the problems do not stop there. Increasingly, child sex offenders travelling abroad are collecting or making their own collections of child pornography and bringing it back to the UK. Last month ECPAT UK wrote to Home Secretary Charles Clarke and sent a copy of a recent ECPAT UK internal report detailing the numerous international media reports of 76 alleged and convicted British sex offenders. We asked that the Home Secretary review areas of the law that currently act as a barrier to investigation and prosecution of child sex tourism offences here in the UK. We also asked the Home Secretary to use his influence within the G8 Interior and Justice Ministerial meetings to bring attention to the inter-relationship between the possession and distribution of child abusive images (child pornography) and child sex tourism, specifically the production of home made images that are being brought back from travels abroad.

Christine Beddoe, Director, ECPAT UK

Background Facts

- In 1993 an estimated 260,000 men had convictions for sex crimes in the UK. Of these 110,000 (42%) were convicted of crimes against children (HM Inspectorate of Probation, 1998).
- There are approximately 25,000 people currently on the UK sex offenders register, though not all have abused children.
- Registered sex offenders now have to report their travel plans, but they can still travel under three days without reporting. This puts them in reach of many destinations where children are vulnerable.
- In 1999 a US Postal Service operation uncovered a global child pornography internet based business with the names and credit card details of 250,000 subscribers in 60 countries. 7,272 of these were subscribers in the UK. Over 1,700 people have been arrested and/or questioned in the UK under Operation Ore (part of the international investigation).
- According to Interpol only 320 children have ever been identified from the many thousands of child pornography images, produced over decades that are still in circulation (ECPAT International).

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White & Case is an international commercial law firm. It is committed to taking on pro bono work on human rights issues and has also supported ECPAT USA.

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ECPAT UK stands for End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Child Trafficking for Sexual Purposes. We aim to raise awareness on the international aspects of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT UK encourages UK citizens and organisations to take action on these issues.

ECPAT UK is a coalition of UK based organisations working for the protection of children's rights and is part of an international network of ECPAT groups in over 60 countries.

ECPAT UK coalition agencies:

Anti-Slavery International, Barnardos, Jubilee Campaign, NSPCC, Save the Children UK, The Body Shop Foundation, The Children's Society, World Vision UK and UNICEF UK.

We're on the Web
www.ecpat.org.uk

Continue your support

ECPAT UK wishes to thank all its supporters and donors. Without your support we would be unable to continue our work in protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation.

We continue to need your support and request a contribution towards the administration costs of this Newsletter. This year the requested donation is £5. However, all contributions, however small, are greatly appreciated. To make a donation please make cheques payable to ECPAT UK, and send them to our postal address.

We have redesigned our Newsletter. Please let us know what you think of it and if you would like us to change or modify it in some way. We welcome any contributions for news or other topical areas of interest. Email your ideas to: ecpatuk@antislavery.org.

ECPAT UK updates

In July 2004 ECPAT UK became a registered UK Charity. This has given us the opportunity to review and re-invigorate our work. We have spent the last twelve months strengthening our governance and financial structures, building a new Board of Trustees and laying down the strategic direction for beyond 2005. ECPAT UK will continue to campaign on issues related to the international dimensions of child sexual exploitation and build on our knowledge through research, publishing reports and providing training and awareness seminars. We gratefully acknowledge recent donations given by The Body Shop Foundation, Wyndham Charitable Trust and the Hayman Trust to provide core-funding support. We also acknowledge the membership contributions from our nine Coalition Member organisations and the many individual donations from supporters. Without this support ECPAT UK cannot continue its work. ECPAT UK now has Gift Aid status so we can get tax relief for the donations you make.

Project updates

Child Trafficking: ECPAT UK continues its campaigning, research and training on child trafficking into the UK. A full update will appear in the next newsletter.

ECPAT UK is a partner in a new phase of the ECPAT Europe multi-country trafficking project. The project will develop training programmes for police and social workers.

Tourism Training: As part of our goal to provide information to the travel industry on the prevention of child sex tourism ECPAT UK has been working with UK tour operators First Choice, TUI UK and Gambia Experience to develop training for their resort staff. The training guide will be adapted by each tour operator to enable their own in-house trainers to deliver the training in resorts as part of their on-going commitment to the protection of children. The first training this summer will be delivered in the Dominican Republic. This project has been funded by the Travel Foundation and includes the production of 10 destination specific fact sheets. If you would like a copy of these fact sheets please contact ECPAT UK.

Youth Participation: A new Campaign Coordinator has been recruited for the ECPAT UK and The Children's Society Youth Campaign. Fiona Kidd was appointed following an extensive recruitment process that involved young people as part of the recruitment and interview panel. We warmly welcome Fiona on board and will be reporting on the activities of the Youth Campaign in the next edition.

Staff and trustee changes

Long time ECPAT UK staff member, Carron Somerset, left us earlier this year to make her home in Zambia with her husband Tom. Carron made an extraordinary contribution to ECPAT UK over many years and became well known for her research on child trafficking. We all wish her well on her new journey.

We welcome onboard our new Information Officer, Farrah Bokhari. Farrah comes to us with expert knowledge and a passion for working on trafficking related issues, with a particular interest in South Asia. Farrah will be responsible for our information management systems, responding to public enquiries and developing our resource materials.

ECPAT UK Trustee, Chairperson and long time Coalition Member, Randini Wanduragala, resigned as Trustee earlier in the year to concentrate on her other professional and personal commitments. Randini has been a staunch supporter of our work and she will be sadly missed.

ECPAT UK welcomes three new Trustees. All of them bring an exceptional wealth of experience and depth of knowledge. ECPAT UK has recently appointed Wendy Shepherd - Programme Manager of the SECOS programme of Barnardos, Tink Palmer - Coordinator of Stop It Now UK and Ireland and Zoe Llewellyn - former IATA representative and now airline industry consultant.

Net safety

The Virtual Global Taskforce

The Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) was created in 2003 as a direct response to lessons learned from investigations into on-line child abuse around the world. It is an international alliance of law enforcement agencies working together to make the Internet a safer place. The Virtual Global Taskforce comprises the National Crime Squad of England and Wales, Australian High Tech Crime Centre, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, US Department of Homeland Security and Interpol. The Virtual Global Taskforce delivers innovative crime prevention and crime reduction initiatives to prevent and deter individuals from committing on-line child abuse. The VGT website can be used for reporting suspicious or inappropriate on-line behaviour with or towards a child. On-line child abuse includes searching for, sharing and downloading images of children being physically and sexually abused and 'grooming' children in, for example, chat rooms with the intention of committing sexual abuse both on and off-line. Website: www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com



On 18th April 2005, the ECPAT international network and CHIS (The UK Children's Charities Coalition on Internet Safety) launched the worldwide make-IT-safe campaign. The make-IT-safe campaign will lobby IT leaders to create a global child protection body to set and implement worldwide industry standards, research safety technologies, and fund a global educational campaign. The campaign will also urge governments to adopt IT child protection policies to ensure industry responsibility, to enable international legal co-operation against online child abuse, and to provide care and protection for children abused or exposed to harmful images and messages online. ECPAT UK is one of nine members of the CHIS coalition. Other members include Barnardos, Childline, The Children's Society, NCB, NCH, NSPCC, NCVCCO and Stop it Now UK and Ireland. Website: www.make-it-safe.net



National Internet Safety Centre

The UK Government is to set up a new Centre for Child Protection on the internet to support the police and child protection agencies. The Centre will target paedophiles using the internet to distribute illegal images and 'groom' children. The Centre's aim will be to reduce the harm caused to children, families and societies by child abuse facilitated through the internet, and is supported by the members of the Home Secretary's Internet Task Force, including the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Internet Watch Foundation, children's charities and the internet industry. The Centre will be attached to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and will be operational by April 2006. It will be staffed by specialist police officers as well as child protection and Internet industry experts, and will be a focal point for the online element of child protection work. The new Centre will provide a single 24/7 point of contact for the public, law enforcers, industry, and other organisations for reporting targeting of children online; offer information and advice to victims and potential victims of abuse and parents; and assess and disseminate international and domestic intelligence on online and offline offenders, including paedophiles and other serious sex offenders. Website:

<http://www.governmentforum365.co.uk/government-news/internet-safety-centre-announced.aspx>

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
<http://www.childnet-int.org/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>
<http://www.getnetwise.org/>

International news

Australia puts travel ban on sex offenders

The Australian government has introduced new laws to revoke passports for sex offenders who are known to travel abroad. The new law came into force on July 1 and will specifically target child sex tourists. (theaustralian.com.au, 19/04/05)

Canada convicts the first child sex tourism case

Donald Bakker, the first person to face criminal prosecution in Canada under child sex tourism laws, pleaded guilty to ten counts of sexual assault. Seven of the charges related to crimes committed against children under 14 years in Cambodia where Bakker videotaped the abuse. He was also charged with sexual attacks on adult sex workers in Canada. (The Toronto Star, 2/6/05)

US convicts sex tourists

A 61 year old American/Filipino man, Edilberto Datan, was sentenced to 17 years prison after he admitted to having sex with eight boys, ages 14 and 15 whilst on holiday in Cebu, Philippines. Datan also will be required to pay restitution to his victims. The amount of restitution will be finalized at a hearing in August. Authorities said they found about 150 sexually explicit images of 18 teenage Filipino boys in Datan's luggage and digital camera. Only eight of the children were identified and located by the Philippine National Police. (Associated Press, 20/7/05)

An 87 year old US citizen was sentenced to 20 years in prison on six counts related to child sex tourism offences. John Seljan was arrested at LA international airport as he was about to board a flight bound for the Philippines. In his luggage police found pornographic materials containing images of children, sexual aids and almost 1,000 lbs of chocolate. Police seized correspondence indicating Seljan had planned to travel to engage in sexual acts with two girls aged 9 and 12. Seljan knew the children and their families from previous trips to the Philippines. Seljan told police he had been 'educating' girls for 20 years. (various media, 03/2005)

German arrested in Thailand

German national Hans Ulrich Schmuttermayr was arrested in Pattaya following a police search of his apartment in February. Officers entered the room to find a number of CD's and equipment used to make pornographic movies. They also found numerous photos of Schmuttermayr, 60, with young girls and boys under the age of 15 involved in various sexual acts. Schmuttermayr confessed that he had spent four years in jail in Germany on similar charges and that he fled probation, coming to Thailand to continue his activities. During the questioning it was also determined that Schmuttermayr sold the movies both in Thailand and abroad to other pedophiles for 500 to 1,000 baht per CD (approx £7 - £14). (Pattaya Mail, Volume X111, No.6, 11/2/05)

Meetings

Two European regional conferences were held in Slovenia in July. The first was the European Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence against Children. The second, held immediately after, was the European Regional Consultation for the Yokohama review on combating Sexual Exploitation of Children. This was intended as a follow-up to the 2001 Yokohama 2nd World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Chris Beddoe, the Director of ECPAT UK attended the Yokohama Review meeting and presented a panel presentation on the Role of the Private sector in combating the sexual exploitation of children. Both meetings were hosted by the Council of Europe and invitations were sent to all European governments to attend. It was disappointing to note that no UK government delegation attended. Information about the meetings can be found on the Council of Europe website: www.coe.int/T/E/Legal_Affairs/Legal_co-operation/

Publications

Child Sexual Exploitation in Travel & Tourism: Lecturer's Pack

A pack designed for lecturers teaching tourism related HND, degree and Masters students. Includes lecturer's script, power-point presentation, essay questions and a short news piece on child sex tourism in Cambodia. The pack consists of a video and CD.

ECPAT UK 2004
Price: £10.00

Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism

This CD is a comprehensive compilation of documents produced by ECPAT groups and other organizations to raise awareness of travelers and tourism professionals about the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism. The CD includes booklets, brochures, posters, flyers, luggage tags, ticket folders, videos, education materials, reports and examples of the implementation of the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*.

ECPAT International 2003
Price: No charge, but donations welcome.

Seeking new trustees

ECPAT UK is currently seeking nominations for Trustees. If you are interested please contact Chris Beddoe for details at: c.beddoe@antislavery.org or tel: 020 7501 8927.

Trustees are required to comply with quality standards that include a child protection policy, a Trustees Code of Conduct and Job Description.

Current ECPAT UK Trustees: Alison Harvey (temporary Chairperson), David Ould, Wendy Shepherd, Tink Palmer and Zoe Llewellyn.

SUPPORT US

ECPAT UK seeks contributions from our existing and new supporters to help us expand, take on greater challenges and be ever more innovative in framing solutions to end child sexual exploitation globally.

Please help us make a difference

ECPAT UK is working hard to raise awareness and campaign on protection measures for children at risk of sexual exploitation. We are currently in the midst of streamlining our organisational systems and resources to make us even more effective and pro-active in seeking out ways to change policy and practice.

We cannot do this without your help and financial support. Your suggestions, information and other assistance is highly appreciated and makes a difference.

Be an ECPAT UK supporter!

As an ECPAT UK supporter you will receive our newsletter and updates on regular action you can take. We have publications, videos and reports on all aspects of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Please donate generously to help us make a difference.

Please make cheques payable to:

ECPAT UK
Thomas Clarkson House
The Stableyard
Broomgrove Road
London SW9 9TL
UK
Registered charity no: 1104948

Make regular donations

Please write, email or phone us on how to make a regular donation and request a bankers order form (direct debit).

giftaid it If you are a UK taxpayer, the value of your donation can be increased by 28% under the Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost to you. Please let us know if you would like to gift aid your donation.

Two sides of the same coin — child sex tourism & child pornography

We can no longer neatly separate the issues of child sex tourism and the viewing or distribution of child abusive images (child pornography). More and more case evidence confirms that travelling sex offenders have in their possession child abusive images or the equipment to distribute the images they make themselves while they are abroad. Most often this includes digital camera equipment and images stored on laptop computers or on portable devices such as CDs or Memory Sticks.

In May 2005, a New Zealand national living in the UK was convicted under UK law for offences related to the possession of child pornography and inciting a child to perform an illegal act. After seizing the home computer police found almost 4,000 images including 212 images taken in Cambodia during a five-day holiday and 372 images taken in the Philippines.

ECPAT UK is concerned that UK investigations into the possession of child abusive images, particularly the use of new technologies, are not examining the links to the abuse of children abroad and therefore missing opportunities to prevent and detect cases of child sex tourism. Investigations into victim identification have virtually been ignored when child pornography involves foreign children especially children in developing countries.

ECPAT UK also believes that someone who regularly views child abusive images but who has not yet sexually assaulted a child may be motivated to travel abroad to abuse a child because of the perceived anonymity and lower risk of being caught. If this happened, as well as the crimes committed abroad, the risk they pose in the UK may also increase should they become more confident in their abusive activities.

In June 2005, Matthew Paul Hamilton (24) a British national, was charged by Cambodian police with the sexual abuse of three young males, ages 14 –16. The boys told police that Hamilton paid them each US\$50 each time he had sex with them. Police confiscated Hamilton's digital camera, which contained over 50 images of the naked boys. Hamilton denies the charges and claims he had been in Cambodia only one month as a tourist.

While the precise link between viewing images and committing sexual abuse of children may be a matter for debate, some experts believe that it allows paedophiles to normalise their sexual feelings and break down the barriers of guilt and fear which prevent them from physically offending.

A recent study by US based National Center for Missing & Exploited Children concludes that within a 12 month period beginning July 1, 2000 – most of the 1,713 arrests (in the US) for possession of child pornography had images of pre-pubescent children (83%) and images graphically depicting sexual penetration (80%). Almost all arrested were male and of those 91% were white and 86% were older than 25. Approximately one in five arrested had images depicting sexual violence to children such as rape, bondage and torture.

In June the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers for the Group of Eight nations (G8) agreed in principle to develop a new international database that would combine photographs of known sex offenders as well as pornographic images from all the G8 nations in order to make identification of abusers and victims easier. Once fully agreed and operational this new hi-tech tool will be accessible to the international law enforcement community and will be a giant move forward in the detection of international child sex crimes.

We can no longer neatly separate the issues of child sex tourism and the viewing or distribution of child abusive images (child pornography).

But we cannot forget the thousands of children in countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Kenya and Romania whose images continue to be collected by child sex tourists. Much more work must be done by UK authorities and other G8 countries to help identify and provide support to such children who might still be suffering. This will require increased international co-operation between police forces and child protection organisations at an international, national and local level.

In response to our letter to Secretary of State, Charles Clarke, the Home Office has responded and said "the Sexual Offences Act 2003 represented the first comprehensive overhaul of sex offending legislation since 1956 and we need to ensure that the legislation is working as intended. That is why we are embarking upon a stocktake of the legislation over the coming months. The views of ECPAT will, of course, be sought during that stocktake and we will look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions".

Brits in the News

Brit arrested in Thailand

A former deputy director of a children's home in north London in the 1980's has been charged with molesting young boys in Thailand. Nicholas Rabet, 56, used computer games to lure children to his rented home in the down-market "sex-tourist" resort of Pattaya, paid them for sex and gave "commissions" to those who introduced other boys to him. Police said he allowed the boys, aged between six and 14, to play on condition that they took off their clothes, supposedly to prevent them from stealing the games. A bell would be hung outside the front door to show that Rabet was in and his toys available. Police found 11 game consoles, snacks, bags of children's clothes and lubricant when they raided the house after complaints from local teachers. As many as 300 boys are believed to have visited the house, about 30 of them regularly, and police said that the youngsters were paid between £7 and £14 to perform sexual acts. Police raided Rabet's UK home in 1991 after an abuse inquiry in Cambridgeshire turned up hundreds of pictures of young boys, pornography and a collection of male underwear. A boy who had been in his care in Islington told Sussex police that Mr Rabet had abused him. There was no corroborating evidence and no prosecution was ever mounted. Soon afterwards Mr Rabet closed his centre, reportedly sold the premises and moved to Asia. (Reports from The Telegraph and others, 17/7/2005)

Brit gives himself up in India

In June 2005, British national Duncan Grant, 'surrendered' to police in India following an international investigation and warrant issued by Indian police for offences going back many years related to abuse of children at the Anchorage orphanage in Mumbai. Duncan Grant (61) set up three orphanages in India between 1995 and 1996. Another British national Allan Waters, is currently in detention in India on related offences. Waters was arrested in New York and extradited to India where he is currently facing trial. Grant sought haven in Tanzania, which has no extradition treaty with India and where he opened further shelters for street children. Last year, a group of British gap-year students working there reported their suspicions that children at the homes were being sexually abused although they did not directly accuse Grant. He was finally arrested in Dar Es Salaam last September on the request of the Indian police, but was released on bail and then deported to the UK in June. British police failed to detain him on his arrival despite an international warrant for his arrest under an Interpol red notice. Indian police detained him after he returned to Mumbai to face the charges against him. Grant has pleaded not guilty to the charges. (various media, 7/05)