ECPAT International Annual Report

July 2010 - June 2011

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December, 2011

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The commercial sexual exploitation of children consists of criminal practices that demean, degrade and threaten the physical and psychosocial integrity of children. There are three primary and interrelated forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children: prostitution, pornography and trafficking for sexual purposes. Other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children include child sex tourism, child marriages and forced marriages.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a fundamental violation of human rights and children’s rights. The key element is that this violation of children and their rights arises through a commercial transaction of some sort. That is, there is an exchange in which one or more parties gain a benefit – cash, goods or kind – from the exploitation for sexual purposes of someone under 18.
Twenty years ago, a group of dedicated social activists identified an insidious connection between the growth of mass tourism and the vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation in Asia. This was the genesis of ECPAT International, now a global network of 82 groups working in 75 countries, to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Our commitment to ensuring that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights, free from all forms of CSEC, has not wavered.

However, more than two decades after governments signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) children remain vulnerable, and their rights are still not adequately protected.

One in five people trafficked worldwide is a child. Commercial child pornography has become a multi-billion-dollar criminal enterprise, and there are more than one million child sexual abuse images on the Internet. We are also seeing that the children targeted are getting younger, and that the severity of the abuse in these images is increasing.

The work of ECPAT International deals with child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children.
for sexual purposes through advocacy and programming that comprehensively addresses areas of prevention, protection and the provision of care services. Our advocacy is supported by a robust legal programme, which includes research and capacity-building to draw attention to the responsibilities of governments to protect children through legal reform and law enforcement.

ECPAT International programming is informed by action research and brings the latest understanding of developments to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, and the exploitation of children online. Child and youth participation in all areas and activities reflects our commitment to Article 12 of the CRC that children have the right to express their own opinions and to have them taken into account in matters affecting them.

ECPAT International believes in the power of coordinated social action, and that all actors in society have a duty of care to children. This is a sustainable approach to ending CSEC because it forges partnerships and dynamic coalitions with the diverse actors and stakeholders who have a part to play in preventing and ending CSEC worldwide and supporting the resilience and recovery of exploited children and young people. To this end, ECPAT International and its members work with children and young people, child rights agencies and civil society groups, care providers, governments and international organisations, law enforcement agencies, multilateral governance institutions, and the private sector.

We believe that the elimination of CSEC requires that we reach out to a broader group of actors in the private sector and encourage them to recognise their responsibility and ability to make a difference by joining partnerships to protect children.

Indeed, many actors—from small businesses operating at the local community level, such as tourism operators or cyber cafes, to multinationals such as Sol Melia, The Body Shop and Microsoft—acknowledge and are acting on their responsibility to protect children and defend their rights. In the travel and tourism sector, the international hotel chain ACCOR and Air France, joined forces with ECPAT International more than 10 years ago and developed action plans within their global operations to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and ensure their protection. These partnerships are essential to ECPAT’s global campaigning and activism to end the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, and serve as models for effective private sector-civil society collaboration.

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (the Code), a social responsibility tool for the private sector, was established in 1998, and now has more than 1000 signatories. It requires companies to implement action plans and enhance their capacity to protect children. In the past year, significant progress was achieved in furthering the Code’s reach. ECPAT International trained Local Code Representatives (LCRs) to work with tourism-related businesses and strengthen implementation of the Code locally.

In the past two years, The Body Shop joined forces with ECPAT International for a global campaign to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People. Our exemplary partnership has raised awareness about child trafficking globally—in just one year, more than 7 million people signed a campaign petition calling on national governments to take specific measures to end trafficking of children for sexual purposes. Governments signed on to international child protection instruments and many developed national policies to protect children. In addition, The Body Shop donated US $3 million to anti-sex trafficking initiatives and projects designed and led by at-risk children and survivors.
ECPAT International is also developing new partnerships with multilateral and corporate actors in the field of new information and communications technologies (ICTs). The Internet and converged communications devices facilitate in the crime of creating and disseminating images of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people, or child pornography.

Key actors in the ICT field now acknowledge ECPAT International’s view that a wide range of stakeholders must work together to devise and implement measures that ensure new technologies are not used to harm children and young people. ECPAT International has built strong relationships with many of these stakeholders. Our programme to protect children online engages with global corporations and pivotal international governance institutions such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). ECPAT works with these entities to provide practical child-centric advice on how to incorporate child protection measures within new standards and protocols for ICT systems and services globally.

Governments are increasingly stepping up to support actions to prevent and end CSEC. ECPAT International’s advocacy has helped to ensure that they are fulfilling their commitments under international instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prosecution and Pornography.

As part of our mandate, ECPAT International continues to monitor the progress of governments in implementing the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call to Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, adopted at the Third World Congress Against CSEC in 2008. Governments need to ratify legal standards addressing CSEC, to harmonise domestic laws based on these standards and to implement the laws and provide sufficient resources to provide proper care for children and young people who are recovering from sexual exploitation or who are at risk of harm. Concretely, ECPAT International encourages and supports ECPAT groups and partners to engage with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process within the Human Rights Council (HRC) and to prepare Alternative Reports to the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prosecution and Pornography. We believe this is an effective means to hold States accountable to their international commitments to protect children.

ECPAT International produces Global Monitoring Reports, which document country-level action against CSEC. Over the years, these reports have become a global baseline for information on the actions taken, and a road map for addressing gaps in each country, based on the Stockholm Agenda for Action (1996) against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. We need to remain vigilant because legal loopholes, weak law enforcement, lack of comprehensive legal frameworks and inadequate definition and criminalisation of offences leave children at great risk. ECPAT International is now in the process of preparing new editions of these sought-after Global Monitoring Reports.

Over the past year, the advocacy of ECPAT International and its partners has helped lead to the adoption by the European Council of the Directive on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting Victims. Another directive on combating sexual abuse, the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography is pending. The current Directive falls short because it does not make it mandatory for European Union member States to block websites containing child abuse materials. Even so, ECPAT believes the Directive has positive implications for setting global standards and supporting the ECPAT network’s advocacy with States outside Europe to adopt similar reforms of domestic laws.
Children and young people played a central role in advocacy with governments and multilateral bodies throughout the reporting period. They also were leaders in the global campaign to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People, contributing to the development and delivery of training and awareness-raising to stakeholders and engaging in lobbying and advocacy activities to bring CSEC to the attention of national governments. Through a series of creative awareness-raising events, young people in communities mobilised more than 170,000 signatures for the global campaign.

ECPAT International’s development, encouragement and close engagement with children and young people is premised on the understanding that children and young people are ECPAT’s core constituency. They have the right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives, to participate fully in their communities and to have access to programmes and services that work for them. Supported by the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC), youth participation is integrated through all levels of ECPAT International’s programmes. ECPAT International and EICYAC focus strongly on building the knowledge, skills and confidence of young people so they can effectively plan and implement their own activities, now and in the future. The development of an ever-expanding global pool of skilled young leaders and activists will maintain the long-term momentum needed to achieve the objectives of the ECPAT movement.

The expansion of the Youth Partnership Project for Child Survivors and Youth at Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (YPP) has been notably successful in developing youth motivators and peer supporters in 15 countries. There are now almost 500 YPP peer supporters, working with more than 200 local partners in schools, shelters, homes and drop-in centres. They serve the most marginalised and disadvantaged children and young people through facilitation of activities and youth-led micro-projects. In the past year, YPP in South Asia was evaluated. The current phase of the project has reached 9,000 direct beneficiaries. These beneficiaries agree that the YPP has been a successful model that empowers youth and has a positive psycho-social impact on child survivors and youth at risk of CSEC in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The network has achieved significant successes, but the rights of children are still not universally protected, and many children are still subjected to sexual exploitation. CSEC cannot be dealt with in isolation. Its various manifestations have complex roots linked to other socio-economic problems, including poverty, HIV-AIDS, armed conflict, drug abuse and other social development issues, including the impacts of globalisation and its relationship to notions of power between individuals and communities. The demand that drives the sexual exploitation of children is evident in all societies, at all levels. The problem is multifaceted and requires a collaborative and strategic approach, focused on prevention, protection and direct care for children who are at risk or who have already suffered sexual exploitation.

ECPAT groups in 75 countries continue the fight. This is the year of our triennial International Assembly meeting at ECPAT’s fifth International Assembly in Paris in November 2011. We will take stock of our progress against the 2008 Rio de Janeiro Declaration, which expresses deep concern for the increasing vulnerability of children around the world.

As the ECPAT International Assembly endorses its Strategic Directions for 2012-2015, we recommit
YPP Nepal Peer Supporters participate in an evaluation to assess their Peer Support Programme within schools.

ourselves to build on our network’s proven ability to advocate for change; to broker new partnerships for action; to raise awareness and inspire action from the public; to facilitate greater child and youth participation in our governance, strategies, and programming; and to expand our innovative integrated approaches for child protection worldwide.

Maureen Crombie  
Chairperson, ECPAT International  
Board of Trustees

Kathleen Speake  
Executive Director, ECPAT International
Youth participation is a crucial part of ECPAT’s work and an area that continues to grow with each year. As the Youth Representative to the ECPAT Board of Trustees, I feel privileged not only to have this opportunity to offer my skills and experiences but, also, to learn from the breadth of experience and knowledge within the ECPAT network.

Over the last twelve months, the Youth Partnership Project (YPP) has continued to empower and mobilise communities against the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) through youth-led activism at the community and national level, peer support programmes and research. The YPP is led by young people, for young people, and truly gives vulnerable youth and those who have been victims of sexual exploitation a voice to protect themselves and reach out to their peers.

I have also been privileged to be directly involved in a number of ECPAT activities in Uganda over the last year to raise awareness and protect children from commercial sexual exploitation, including the Make-IT-Safe campaign, a research survey on how children and young people use information and communication technologies and the collection of 60,000 petition signatures for the Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People campaign.

I continue to be inspired by the work of ECPAT International and its 82 member organisations around the world. I am also inspired by the strength and commitment shown by the young people who are a part of the YPP and many other advocacy and educational activities.

ECPAT is leading the global movement to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and I call upon all governments, civil society groups, NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector to increase their efforts to combat child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, and, importantly, to listen to the voices of children and young people.

Jonathan Ssembajwe
Youth Representative to the Board of Trustees, ECPAT International
CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Uniting the creativity of children, the participation of adolescents and young people with the experience of adults, we can ... stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents

— ECPAT youth advocate

The right of children and young people to participate and to be heard is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and ECPAT International is committed to ensuring genuine participation by children and young people in all its programmes.

Meaningful involvement by children and young people in all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programming is not only a right but assists the achievement of successful and sustainable actions to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT International’s Strategic Directions, endorsed by the global network, state ECPAT’s commitment ‘to promote and uphold the right of children and youth (particularly child survivors and at-risk youth) to actively participate as key social advocates against the sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT understand that participation can be a powerful instrument against discrimination and exploitation can strengthen children’s resiliency, empowerment and ability for self-protection’.

The ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC), comprising regional youth representatives elected for three-year terms, advises the ECPAT International Board of Trustees on ECPAT policies and programming. Established in 2002 on the recommendations of children and young people
Young People Lead

The Youth Partnership Project for Child Survivors and Youth at Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (YPP) is an innovative global initiative based on a pilot project in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, which began in 2005.

The YPP engages children and young people who have suffered or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, and works with them to design and participate in social change and advocacy actions. The positive impacts are many, boosting the resilience, confidence, creativity, self-esteem and life skills of young participants.

The YPP
• Operates in Moldova, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); Gambia, Togo and Cameroon in Africa; Guatemala, Chile and Mexico in Latin America; and Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam in South East Asia
• Works with 217 local partners—98 in local schools and 119 in shelter homes and drop-in centres
• Enlists 500 peer supporters
• Partners with local schools and shelters in at-risk communities
• Develops teams of young peer supporters who address the needs of children and young people
• Trains teams in leadership and management skills
• Builds the capacity of young people to design and organise youth-led micro-projects to raise awareness of CSEC issues among youth and in their communities
• Designs and runs local and national advocacy campaigns to fight for their rights
• Reaches 3.5 million direct and indirect beneficiaries, including 29,000 at-risk.

attending the Second World Congress Against CSEC in Yokohama, Japan, the committee members work closely with ECPAT groups around the world. A youth representative also sits on the ECPAT Board and participates in all key decisions regarding policies and programmes.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Youth Leadership and Life Skills Training

National coordinators in the YPP project, or the Youth Partnership Project for Child Survivors and Youth at Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, worked through the year with youth motivators and peer supporters to build their knowledge and skills to enable them to assume greater project management responsibilities and lead implementation of activities. YPP teams held capacity-building meetings once or twice a month and focused on
• Issues related to child rights, child protection, violence against children and CSEC—its manifestations, root causes, impacts on children, strategies for prevention and response mechanisms
• Leadership and life skills to enhance young people’s interpersonal and communication skills—teamwork, problem-solving, managing conflict, sharing ideas and opinions, socialising and interacting with others, developing friendships, identifying mentors and accessing peer support mechanisms
• Specialised sessions on planning, project management, budgeting, minute taking, proposal writing, report writing, computer proficiency, email and internet usage, developing training sessions and facilitating workshops and preparing and delivering presentations.

The positive impact of this work is demonstrated by the way in which YPP youth motivators and peer supporters are increasingly taking on leadership roles within the project. They are raising awareness in their communities, advocating with policy-makers, facilitating meetings, conducting peer support programmes, and
planning, implementing and reporting back on youth-led activities. Other local organisations also recognise their leadership skills and invite them to act as consultants.

**Key Examples**

Presentations by the **YPP Ukraine**’s national coordinator and a youth motivator at an international conference in Kiev in October 2010 on a ‘Model United Nations’ resulted in conference delegates adopting a resolution calling for better protection of children from sexual exploitation. All the conference resolutions were delivered to the UN.

Young people attending a December 2010 workshop on the Committee of the Rights of the Child in Guatemala City elected the **YPP Guatemala** representative to meet with the Committee’s Vice-President, after he gave a presentation on YPP experiences and good practices on youth-led awareness-raising and advocacy. The YPP representative presented the Vice-President with the young people’s recommendations calling on the government of Guatemala to improve its implementation of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**. The young leader was also a guest on television and radio shows, where he drew attention to the trafficking of children and the YPP’s work with young people to prevent it.

On National Children’s Day in Thailand, **YPP Thailand** peer supporters talked to parliamentarians and policymakers at Government House about the YPP peer support programme, training for children at risk in schools and communities, and YPP’s radio programmes and mobile theatre performances in various ethnic communities to raise public awareness about CSEC. Thailand’s Prime Minister demonstrated his support by signing the ECPAT campaign with The Body Shop to **Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People**.

**YPP Gambia** launched a weekly call-in radio programme, which was conceived and implemented by youth motivators. From August to December 2010, they shared information about child rights and commercial sexual exploitation, and received between 20 and 30 calls during each programme. The programme was broadcast to 30 provinces and reached more than 75,000 community-based listeners.
YPP youth in India, Nepal and Bangladesh met Nepal’s President in April 2011 to present him with more than 65,000 signatures from the Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People campaign. They discussed with the President the problem of cross-border trafficking of children in South Asia and called for improved protection of children’s rights in the region.

**PEER-TO-PEER APPROACH TO CHILD PROTECTION**

The YPP now works with 217 local partners in schools, shelter homes and drop-in centres, serving the most marginalised and disadvantaged children and young people. Across the world, almost 500 YPP peer supporters reach vulnerable children directly through YPP programmes and youth-led micro-projects.

YPP Clubs, which implement the peer support programmes, meet often with local partner organisations (including schools and shelter homes serving vulnerable children and young people) to discuss issues of interest and concern to young people. The programme uses the following three-way strategy:

**Direct Support:** Peer supporters identify young people who may need psycho-social help and encourage them to join YPP Clubs, where they can benefit from peer support and access social services offered through local partner organisations. The supporters are trained in ‘basic counselling’, so that they can assist other young people who need special support. The feedback from supporters shows that the peer-to-peer approach is most effective in assisting children and young people when they first enter a shelter home. Supporters are assigned to assist them with the transition by being a friend and helping them to settle into shelter routines.

Similarly, within schools, YPP youth help many young people who are believed to be at risk or undergoing difficulties at home. The young people are invited to join YPP Clubs and receive referrals for psycho-social support as needed. Young people regard the YPP peer supporters as ‘role models’; this motivates the supporters in their work. One peer supporter said, ‘Students in schools like ours for underprivileged children need a lot of support, encouragement and genuine friends with whom they can share their problems. The YPP Peer Support Programme helps provide all of these things’.

**Peer Education:** YPP Clubs conduct interactive and educational sessions related to child protection, leadership, life skills and other topics of concern to young people. They also organise recreational activities to promote socialisation, team-building and solidarity among peer supporters. Discussions within YPP peer support sessions on issues related to child protection and CSEC are designed to be sensitive to a young audience and conveyed in a way that is interesting and educational. With younger children, for example, peer supporters use drawings, story-telling, videos and interactive games to discuss issues related to rights and protection. With older participants, they use ECPAT’s child-friendly resource materials, focused group discussions, case studies, quizzes, debate and essay competitions, poster competitions, role plays and radio and television programmes to communicate key messages. Within the broader community, they find mobile theatre, street plays, rallies and parades, and campaigns more effective in generating interest and communicating sensitive messages about CSEC.

**Participatory Activities:** These are carried out through micro-projects, whereby YPP members receive resources, based on their proposals, to carry out community-based awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives. Young people also lead community-based research initiatives.
Micro-Projects and Youth-led Awareness-Raising

Micro-projects in which YPP youth receive small grants to design and implement awareness-raising and advocacy activities reinforce YPP’s commitment to promote meaningful participation of children and young people, particularly those who are most marginalised and excluded. YPP youth play a leading role in schools, shelter homes and high-risk communities to raise awareness about CSEC, while also seeking to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with the issue.

These youth-led initiatives are implemented using culturally sensitive ways to convey key messages. Greater awareness and sensitisation among teachers, families, communities and local authorities in turn promotes a sense of responsibility and commitment to address CSEC and to recognise the important role played by young people in combating it.

- **YPP Moldova** organised a micro-project in which art and literature contests for children provided age-appropriate information and case studies about the consequences of CSEC. Peer supporters also organised a Stop Child Trafficking project, where they produced essays, wall posters, paintings, leaflets and collages to illustrate their commitment to end CSEC.
- **YPP Kyrgyzstan** developed ‘Tumar’, a comic book character and mascot for the fight against CSEC. Tumar, who was unveiled at a Forum Theatre performance on CSEC, conveys information to the public in a culturally relevant way.
- **YPP Kyrgyzstan** also organised a photography competition on ‘Street Children: Life and Leisure of Children in Child Institutions of Kyrgyzstan’ to lobby for child rights protection in eight child centres. Participants identified and photographed (with their consent) children and young people who are at risk, highlighting ways in which they are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. The photographs were exhibited at government offices.
- **YPP Mexico** designed posters, cards and a board game for a campaign to educate the community on CSEC and to alert children to personal safety. In the game, the players move or travel through different stops on a board at which they discuss topics relevant to young people such as relationships, family, work, studies, drugs, HIV/AIDS and CSEC.
- **YPP Cambodia** conducted a theatre performance on child sex tourism, which was attended by 300 people including children and young people, their families, teachers and the local authorities.
- **YPP youth in India** and **Nepal** conducted puppet shows to raise awareness on various issues. India also produced one-minute videos on the issues of CSEC and HIV/AIDS.
- **YPP Thailand** is implementing a community-based radio programme where social issues affecting the local children, such as violence, CSEC, trafficking, children’s rights and protection are discussed by YPP youth.
- **YPP youth in Guatemala** were trained to participate in TV and radio programmes on child rights and protection. The TV station asked the youth to come back for more shows, after their last show received a very good public response.

YOUTH-LED AWARENESS-RAISING AND ADVOCACY

YPP teams also conducted lobbying and advocacy activities to bring CSEC to the attention of community members, local leaders and national governments, and they played a leading role in the global campaign to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People.

YPP youth in **Togo** conducted two television talk shows to raise awareness on CSEC.

In **Chile**, YPP members conducted interviews with experts and other members to dispel myths around CSEC, to prevent child trafficking and to call young people to action against CSEC. They reached a wider audience by sharing the information through Facebook and blogs. They also prepared posters for shelters and wrote articles for the second edition of their magazine, *The Mirror*.

**YPP Cameroon**’s national coordinator and YPP representatives took part in national and local radio programmes on child trafficking and CSEC throughout 2010.

**YPP members in Thailand** organised a parade in November 2010 in which children and young people carried 15 campaign banners along the main road of Sampantakit village in Chiang Rai, northern Thailand, to raise awareness in the community about CSEC and the duty to protect children. They also organised a poster exhibition and participated in a question and answer...
Top: YPP Youth in Togo conduct a Leadership Training and Team Building exercise among the Peer Supporters.

Bottom: YPP Cambodia Youth Motivators lead community meetings to raise awareness about CSEC in high-risk communities.
session on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and CSEC for more than 1,200 children and community members.

**THE MOST VULNERABLE AND AT-RISK CHILDREN**

YPP is conducted in many of the least-developed countries, where many families and children live below the poverty line and lack access to education, health and livelihood services, and support systems.

Additional socio-economic and political factors contribute to increased risk of CSEC. Within this context, YPP youth have identified the most at-risk children and young people as those who ‘lack a total family and other social protection, children who live alone and are under extreme pressure to support themselves and/or their family members’. These children may be orphans or do not live with their immediate family or relatives, and include street children, migrant children and trafficked children. They commonly work in exploitative situations, such as domestic work, or street and beach vending, the entertainment and service industry and transportation. Some are the children of sex workers and live in red light areas. Some lead households. Some have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation within families and schools, including being forced into early marriage. Others use drugs; many live in inadequate shelter homes or care centres.

As one youth advocate said, ‘The YPP has helped us to understand that we are not the only people to have suffered exploitation—that there are hundreds more like us, who are still living in harmful situations, and that children and youth can play a big part in helping them’.

Dialogue with young people helped ECPAT to focus on reaching out to ‘hidden’ groups of vulnerable children, to work in partnership with them and to empower them as child and youth activists and advocates for the protection of children from commercial sexual exploitation and abuse.

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**Campaign Petition Signatures**

<table>
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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

YPP members collected tens of thousands of signatures in petitions for the joint campaign by ECPAT and The Body Shop to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People.

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“This project has shown me many ways to protect myself from danger and has made it possible for me to use this knowledge to help others.”

— ECPAT youth advocate
YPP Thailand Peer Supporters organise awareness raising activities within schools to promote online safety.
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN ONLINE

In an environment of greater access to new communication technologies, children and young people quickly adopt and adapt, no matter where they live or whatever their socio-economic status. But the rapid expansion and evolution of new technologies, coupled with a significant fall in the cost of hardware and telecommunications services, also makes it easier for some people to use these tools to cause harm to children.

Through the uploading and distribution of pornographic images involving children and young people, cyberspace is host to more than one million unique images of children subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation. In recent years, there is evidence of an increase in the severity of the abuse inflicted on children and young people depicted in images online and the victims are getting increasingly younger. Within the broader context of abuse is the growth of commercial child pornography, as organised crime and others profit from making and distributing images of abuse and exploitation.

Abusive materials are now most commonly accessed and distributed through peer-to-peer file sharing services and live online streaming (where viewers of real-time victimisation of children and young people can immediately watch and record images of abuse, without having to access pre-recorded materials stored on a server). The shifts in distribution channels make it ever more difficult for law enforcement agencies to identify and track online child pornography.

The way in which children and young people themselves interact online and with mobile phones also puts them at risk of drawing unwanted attention from potential abusers and exploiters who can and do make use of publicly available images and personal information to
connect with children and young people. Popular social media sites are for the most part unmonitored and unregulated, thus increasing risk. Some services such as Facebook and YouTube have introduced monitoring and reporting services to address the risk, but until the time such content is reported, pornographic materials can circulate and be publicly available.

The development of smart phones and converged devices that access the Internet pose further challenges for child protection advocates and law enforcement agencies. Many mobile phones feature digital camera and video functions. Pictures and videos can be taken anywhere and sent via phone across borders, making it much more difficult to monitor and control the proliferation of images of abuse and exploitation.

Some argue that educating children and young people as ‘digital citizens’ about the risks in using new technologies and ensuring they have the means to protect themselves is enough to address potential harms. Education is indeed essential. However, ECPAT experience demonstrates that protection of children from sexual exploitation online needs an integrated and multi-sectoral approach whereby cooperation of governments, law enforcement, education institutions, the private sector and NGOs is essential to the creation of a protective environment for children virtually and to ensure that prevention and response mechanisms are available. States and the private sector must take responsibility to see that protection mechanisms are included within the framework of national policies, including mechanisms for reporting harm or potential harm, child-centric investigations, rehabilitation of victims, and laws that are unambiguous in defining child pornography and its harm.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Make-IT-Safe is a child-led campaign that calls on industry and governments to make their services and products safer for children. The campaign has resulted in a growing recognition that a wide range of stakeholders, often with divergent interests and objectives, must work together to ensure that new technologies benefit societies without also being used as a tool to harm children and young people (see box page 19). ECPAT designs appropriate and consultative interventions, develops and delivers training to children and stakeholders, builds the skills of ECPAT members and conducts advocacy for policy reform and proactive responses from private sector and international actors.

Global Advocacy and Policy-Making

ECPAT International plays a leading role to ensure that child protection issues are on the agenda at national and international events where policies dealing with the Internet and information communication technologies (ICTs) are framed and approved. ECPAT is often the only child rights agency presenting at forums dealing with the development and standardisation of new technologies and telecommunications. As such, we are the key defender of the rights of children to protection in regard to the use and application of new technologies. In this role, ECPAT seeks to ensure States and corporations take their responsibilities to protect children seriously.

Internet global governance

ECPAT is the only child rights agency represented in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Working Group. The ITU recommends telecommunications protocols and standards for cyber security. The working group is currently deliberating ECPAT’s recommendations for open-system communications and clearer guidelines for service providers (including Internet and communications providers such as mobile networks) to better protect children online.

As a member of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) multi-stakeholder advisory group on Internet governance, ECPAT International attended
the WSIS forum in Geneva in May 2011, where it chaired a session on online protection, strategies and interventions to safeguard children and young people in Africa.

Private sector partnerships

ECPAT is a core member of the Financial Coalition against Child Pornography for the East Asia Pacific region, which includes Microsoft, Yahoo and members of the finance and banking sector and law enforcement agencies. The coalition’s objective is to eradicate the profitability of commercial child pornography by tracking payments and shutting down accounts used by illegal enterprises. ECPAT provides the coalition members with information and input to ensure their services incorporate a child-centric approach and address the individual rights of children and young people to protection.

ECPAT collaborates with the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) to encourage mobile operators worldwide to develop actions to address the safety and protection of children and young people when using mobile phones. Awareness of the need for protective measures is now strong among association members, and technical mechanisms have been developed such as filtering of illegal content. The association, with ECPAT’s collaboration, has produced a toolkit for Internet hotline operators around the world. ECPAT also partners with Netclean, a technology firm that develops products to detect and remove child abuse images from the Internet. Netclean tools are used by Internet service providers (ISPs) and law enforcement agencies. For example, ECPAT Sweden uses Netclean and works with Sweden’s policing authorities to created safer online contexts. ECPAT International also encourages the hotel industry in parts of Asia to use filters such as those available from Netclean. ECPAT regularly provides Netclean with advice on ways to improve the tool and encourage wider implementation.

Building Skills for Research, Training and Advocacy

Through the ECPAT network, data is collected from diverse locations on ICT trends that impact children. The network is also a channel for the dissemination of advice and support to children and young people. Capacity-building for ECPAT members and partners is a major component of ECPAT International’s work.

Youth-led initiatives are implemented using culturally sensitive ways to convey key messages. Greater awareness and sensitisation among teachers, families, communities and local authorities about the use of technologies in turn promotes a sense of responsibility and commitment to address CSEC and to recognise the important role played by young people in combating it.

- Make-IT-Safe empowers young people to promoted Internet safety. In August 2010, ECPAT members from Benin, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo and Uganda received training on how to deliver Make-IT-Safe training. This included identifying key actors such as cyber cafes, implementing an ECPAT-developed code of conduct for cyber cafes, methodologies for campaigning, developing modules and resources and sharing information in the region. Participants agreed on innovative actions including promoting corporate social responsibility and engaging young people with the private sector to promote Internet safety through campaigns and contests and also working with media more effectively in highlighting issues relating to sexual exploitation of children using new technologies.

- In Chiang Rai, northern Thailand, in July 2010, ECPAT piloted training with teachers from five schools. The activity included assessing
Internet safety policies in schools and developing recommendations for standardising policies and reporting mechanisms, and identifying focal points within these institutions. A Certified Internet Safety School project has been developed to help schools adopt a standard set of guidelines and policies to protect children online. The project will now be extended to Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. The training also included consultation with children on their online activities and inputs for designing policies for schools.

• ECPAT made a formal presentation on the issues of sexual exploitation in the online environment and how platforms like Second Life can be used for global advocacy, training and education involving young people, at the Second Life Community Convention held in Boston, in August 2010. The ECPAT presentation was the only one covering issues related to the protection of children using 3D virtual platforms.

• Training in August 2010 for members of the South Asia Regional Network Resource Exchange in Nepal included participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The workshop raised network members’ understanding of issues related to CSEC online, legislative developments, technological measures such as blocking and filtering, and the ways in which children and young people experience the online environment. The Ministry of ICT in Nepal and members of the telecommunications sector were active participants, and several high-level law enforcement officials from Nepal attended. The meeting agreed on an action plan for dealing with CSEC online. An Internet reporting hotline is to be set up in Nepal, and the report of a survey on the use of ICTs by children in Nepal is being finalised.

• ECPAT groups from Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Estonia joined a regional capacity-building meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, in September 2010 to identify gaps in legislation, procedures and practices in handling Internet-related crimes against children, and also to identify technical solutions for policing agencies. Participating members agreed to prioritise setting up Internet reporting hotlines in Moldova. The Kiev Action Plan is being implemented in participating countries, using micro-funding and includes awareness-raising, lobbying for legal reforms, creation of resources and toolkits for children, research on young people’s use of ICTs, and resource mapping.

• At the Fifth Internet Governance Forum in Vilnius, Lithuania, in September 2010, ECPAT worked with various child rights agencies to deliver a workshop on measures to include government ministries, regulatory bodies and entities dealing with technical standards in national policy-making involving children.

• ECPAT also chaired and led a session of the ‘Dynamic Coalition on Child Online Safety’, a special forum within the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), focussing on online child protection issues. This session also included youth representatives as active participants. ECPAT International’s support to members included assistance to ECPAT Japan on legal reforms to deal with child abuse images; support for African groups working with cyber cafes; and capacity-building workshops and online training on technical issues, such as reporting hotlines and violence against children in cyberspace.
Working With Law Enforcement

ECPAT is a member of the Virtual Global Taskforce, a coalition of law enforcement entities, industry partners and NGOs seeking to end the exploitation and abuse of children online. ECPAT provides the taskforce and policing agencies with information on reported incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation, methodologies for effective engagement with children and young people, field-based knowledge, information on trends and patterns, and insights into the behaviour of offenders and the specific vulnerabilities of children.

ECPAT as a Key Resource

Researchers, academic institutions, media, law enforcement and IT companies continue to seek ECPAT International’s help for information, guidance and expert opinions about the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in regard to new technologies. In April 2010, ECPAT contributed to the Oxford Internet Institute’s forum on Privacy and Freedom of Expression in Relation to Child Protection Online. The forum assessed challenges around implementing blocking solutions and age-verification systems. An ECPAT position paper for the forum analysed the views and opinions of free speech groups, laying the framework for child protection agencies and privacy and freedom of speech lobby groups to start working together.

ECPAT International is one of the few global authorities with expertise on the use of new technologies in relation to sexual exploitation of children and young people. It consequently enjoys the trust and collaboration of leading global actors, and is able to work on the inside to exert influence and provide practical advice on how ICT services can incorporate child protection measures into their day-to-day work. As a result, UN agencies are increasing their attention to issues of child protection online in recognition of the cyber world’s real-world impacts.

CHALLENGES

Protecting children and young people online is made more difficult by the fact that the Internet is for the most part ungoverned by any one State or authority, and that online interactions can be anonymous. Together with many ISPs, defenders of an unregulated and unmoderated Internet have argued that blocking online content is unfeasible and unreasonable, and offenders will always find ways to access or share abusive materials regardless of regulation. States, on occasion, argue for blocking content such as child pornography for purely political reasons, to justify broader censorship.

The responsibility to protect children lies not only with governments. The private sector needs to acknowledge its responsibility and integrate systems to prevent misuse of its services. In recent years, many private sector actors have worked closely with NGOs and civil society, children and young people, to develop guidelines and tools and to allocate resources for training and raising awareness. Others, however, are reluctant to implement strategies to assure children and young people of protection.

Free speech lobby groups have, in the past, resisted engaging with child protection agencies. ECPAT International is making headway to establish positive dialogue with free speech actors such as Electronic Frontier Foundation to find solutions to the problem of child abuse materials online. In working with such groups, ECPAT is raising their awareness about the harm done to children in creating and disseminating abusive content, and arguing for transparent systems and unambiguous policies that prevent or block child abuse images and ensure offenders are brought to account.

As law enforcement agencies find new ways to apprehend offenders and newer technologies emerge, the mechanisms by which people produce, distribute and download materials depicting sexual abuse and
exploitation of children are also changing. With child pornography more commonly accessed and distributed through peer-to-peer file sharing services, shifting distribution channels pose continuing challenges for law enforcement agencies.

The use of ICTs to cause harm to children and young people can be difficult to track. Data is often scarce or unreliable, especially in developing countries. ECPAT continues to undertake research in regions where the impact of new technologies has not been well documented, but much work is required to get a more complete picture of the issues, similarities and variances from region to region.

Partnerships

The prescription that the Vienna Conference on Combating Child Pornography on the Internet set out in 1999 remains valid:

*The fight against child pornography involves particular technical and legal challenges, including fast technical innovations and changing patterns e.g. concerning places of origin and forms of exchange. The fight against this abuse cannot be done alone but only through strong international cooperation, among governments, particularly law enforcement agencies, but equally between States and the Internet industry, hotlines and nongovernmental organisations. Therefore, one of the main outcomes of this conference is the forging of a strong international partnership among all different stakeholders in the fight against child pornography on the Internet.*

We have not yet managed to achieve a ‘strong international partnership’. There are some best practice examples, global standards and norms (such as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols*), and some industry-led voluntary and self-policing regimes in place. But much more needs to be done to promote coordinated actions to address the problem in a comprehensive way.

The creation of safe online environments for children requires a combination of legal, technical and educational measures. Technological solutions and safer technologies are available, but lack of commitment on the part of some key stakeholders remains a serious impediment to enhancing the protection of children online.

Lack of resources is one of the main challenges. But specialist units can be matched with common cause NGOs, researchers, investigative bodies and grassroots groups. The right partners working together can overcome lack of resources. Tapping into their expertise, commitment and passion also helps to draw the attention of governments and the public.
The Make-IT-Safe Campaign in Uganda
A core element of ECPAT International’s mandate is to advocate for ratification of international and regional legal standards addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children, to push for domestic legal frameworks to be harmonised with regional and international standards and to promote effective implementation of appropriate laws at the national level.

Most countries however continue to lag behind in developing comprehensive legal frameworks that adequately define and criminalise offences related to CSEC. Effective support and assistance to children who are at risk or who have already been sexually exploited is also inadequate. Law enforcement bodies in many countries still lack the necessary training and resources to implement existing laws effectively. Legal loopholes and weak law enforcement remain significant challenges to ending CSEC across the world.

ECPAT International’s law enforcement and legal reform programme therefore supports advocacy to encourage governments to fulfil their international and regional commitments to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation. ECPAT conducts a range of initiatives to this end, including the promotion of legal reforms as well as advocacy at a national and international level, including through United Nations reporting processes established under specific human rights monitoring bodies.
ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

International and Regional Standards


The Directive provides for a robust legal framework against human trafficking. It contains comprehensive measures and mechanisms to be implemented by all European Union (EU) Member States (although Denmark has opted out of the Directive) to better prevent child trafficking, to prosecute criminals with more rigour and effectiveness, and to ensure that child victims of trafficking receive adequate support, assistance and protection. EU Member States have until April 2013 to incorporate the Directive into their domestic laws.

The new ambitious rules will keep the EU at the forefront of the international fight against human trafficking by protecting the victims and punishing the criminals behind this modern slavery.

— Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs

People campaign run jointly by ECPAT and The Body Shop. The petition called on governments in Europe to take more steps to protect children from trafficking, including prompt incorporation of the directive into national laws and implementation throughout the EU.


At Regional Network Resource Exchange (RNRE) meetings - in Cambodia for the East Asia and Pacific region, in Peru for the Americas region, and Brussels for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States - ECPAT International and ECPAT groups conducted capacity-building sessions on drafting Alternative Reports on implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Participants were provided with information and updates about the reporting process under the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as guidelines for producing quality reports (also see box overleaf).

ECPAT International also provided methodological and technical support to ECPAT groups from Belarus, Nepal, Sweden, Thailand, Togo and Ukraine to assist in the drafting and submission of their Alternative Reports on the Optional Protocol.
Monitoring States on the Optional Protocol

ECPAT International regularly assists member groups and partners to draft Alternative Reports on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The reports, provided by NGOs and civil society groups, complement reports prepared by States and provide valuable insight into the reality of the implementation of the protocol at the grassroots level.

Togo: ECPAT International worked with the Forum des Organisations de Défense des Droits de l’Enfant au Togo (FODDET, or the Forum of NGOs on children’s rights in Togo) in a participatory process to draft an Alternative Report on implementation in Togo of the Optional Protocol. ECPAT helped coordinate research with five child rights specialists, providing methodological and technical support, especially on legal issues. A joint ECPAT and FODDET workshop then brought together representatives of NGOs, UN agencies as well as children and young people to assess, amend and approve the draft report before its submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In June 2011, the ECPAT Secretariat joined a delegation of Togolese child rights NGOs at a pre-session working group in Geneva to present key issues and recommendations outlined in the report to members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Thailand: ECPAT International led a similar process to prepare an Alternative Report on Thailand. In June 2011, ECPAT International and the ECPAT Foundation held a consultation in the north of Thailand with 26 adult and youth representatives of several schools and grassroots organisations. In focus groups, participants discussed and analysed the situation for especially vulnerable children, including those from hill tribes as well as stateless and foreign children. Children and young people discussed the causes of vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation and recommended measures to be undertaken by government and civil society organisations to improve the defence of vulnerable children’s basic rights. The implementation of the Optional Protocol was also discussed in relation to preventive measures against CSEC, legal frameworks and law enforcement, and access to adequate care and protection services. The participants’ recommendations were incorporated into the report, which was submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in July 2011.

Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review

ECPAT International provided training on the working of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to all ECPAT groups participating in the Regional Network Resource Exchange meetings, and assisted ECPAT groups from Belgium, Denmark, Nepal and Mozambique to draft and submit UPR reports. Participants were provided with guidelines for drafting and submitting UPR reports and were informed of the benefits of engaging with important advocacy platforms such as the Council and the UPR process. These can substantially contribute to holding governments accountable for their international commitments to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation. An analysis of case studies improved participants’ understanding of how engaging with the UPR monitoring process provides an opportunity for ECPAT groups to give direct input to UPR working groups on the status of child protection in the States under review.

Technical Legal Support

ECPAT International conducted a regional consultation and training workshop on protecting children in regard to the use of new technologies in the Baltic region and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Kiev, in September 2010. Fifty representatives from ECPAT groups, other NGOs, governments and the private sector (including mobile phone companies and Internet service providers) from Belarus, Estonia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine participated. A key focus was to compare and analyse the consistency of domestic laws in the countries represented with relevant international and regional legal standards addressing child pornography and child sexual exploitation through new information and
communication technologies. ECPAT’s presentation, assisted by public prosecutors and magistrates from Estonia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, highlighted gaps and challenges, and proposed recommendations to resolve discrepancies between laws at various levels.

CHALLENGES

Proposals by ECPAT and other international child rights organisations to the EU that it be mandatory for Member States to block websites containing child abuse materials were unfortunately not included in the EU’s proposal for a Directive on Combating Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography. ECPAT argued for blocking so that abusive content cannot be accessed from other countries while law enforcement agencies conduct inquiries (for example, when a site is hosted outside of the jurisdiction of the State where the report is first made). Take-down procedures can take a long time to be completed, so blocking is necessary to prevent illegal content being accessed or circulated further.

OUTCOMES

Noting that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) referred frequently to ECPAT’s statements and recommendations in its summaries of information provided by stakeholders and submitted to the Working Group on the UPR before country reviews (Belgium, Denmark, Mozambique and Nepal), ECPAT International will prepare a report analysing the extent to which and how CSEC-related issues are being addressed through the UPR. The report will assess the impact of ECPAT’s engagement with the UPR process, as a key human rights monitoring mechanism, and highlight key achievements and lessons learned regarding its advocacy strategy. The report and lessons will be shared with ECPAT member groups in order to help maximise the impact of their involvement in UPR sessions. The next session is in June 2012, where countries up for review and which host ECPAT groups are Brazil, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

ECPAT International’s participation in the Committee on the Rights of the Child pre-sessions, including its contribution to the pre-session workshop on Togo in June 2011, also provides many lessons. Based on this experience, ECPAT International will prepare a toolkit outlining the reporting process and procedures, and outlining guidelines for providing accurate and updated information in interactions with committee members. It will also contain advice on how to involve children and young people in the drafting process and in the pre-sessional meetings, based on good practices and lessons learned from the alternative reporting for Thailand. The kit will be circulated in upcoming ECPAT regional meetings and shared with ECPAT member groups.

Several ECPAT recommendations to the government of Belarus outlined in its Alternative Report (submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in December 2010) were reflected in the committee’s concluding observations delivered to the government of Belarus. The recommendations called on Belarus to develop a specific national plan against CSEC and to revise domestic laws in order to provide adequate definitions of CSEC’s manifestations and more stringent penalties for CSEC-related crimes. The committee also referred to ECPAT’s advice on the need to enhance the knowledge and capacities of law enforcement officials and to develop adequate protection services for CSEC victims. The ECPAT affiliate group in Belarus, Children – Not for Abuse, will use the report to continue sustained advocacy with the government for implementation of the recommendations.
PHOTO FOR TRAFFICKING

STOP
SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
COMBATING THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked globally every year. These children are exploited into prostitution and pornography or used for cheap labour (UNICEF, 2007).

According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the trafficking of children refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation (within a country or across borders), even if this does not involve any means of force, coercion or deception or other means defined in the trafficking of adults. The issue of consent is irrelevant when it comes to the trafficking of children.

ECPAT International advocates for effective anti-child trafficking legislation and policies that focus on prevention, protection and specialised care and rehabilitation for child victims and children at-risk of being trafficked.

ECPAT’s programme examines the root causes of exploitation, develops measures to improve the implementation of laws against the trafficking of children and provides quality assistance to children who suffer sexual exploitation. ECPAT works with law enforcement agencies to train personnel, ranging from police to prosecutors to judges. It coordinates information gathered through ECPAT’s global network to help identify traffickers and offers an information clearing house to help link sexually exploited children and young people with assistance and support.
ECPAT projects to prevent trafficking include situational analysis studies; awareness-raising campaigns targeting communities, at-risk youth and the public to address overall demand; education for children; vocational training and income-generating opportunities for older vulnerable adolescents or victims of trafficking; support groups and other child and youth-led awareness and advocacy initiatives; and the creation of helplines to provide information to potential migrants (children and adults) about risks connected with migration.

A three-year global campaign with The Body Shop to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People is a cornerstone of ECPAT’s anti-child trafficking initiatives. Initiated in 2009, the campaign aims to raise awareness, influence decision-makers for effective legal and policy reform, and raise funds to support victims. The campaign’s success is in large part due to The Body Shop’s ability to reach millions of customers through its 2,600 stores in 64 countries combined with the ECPAT network’s expertise in more than 75 countries.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People campaign**

With member groups and partners, ECPAT International prepared ‘campaign progress card’ reports, which are an innovative and dynamic tool to monitor and assess State actions to implement the campaign’s advocacy objectives (see box). Toolkits assist member groups, The Body Shop and children and young people to conduct effective campaigning and advocacy actions.

ECPAT International, member groups and partners also produced research papers in 2010 on the trafficking of children, as well as publications to highlight the campaign’s good practices, including the following:

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Young People in Singapore. Available

**Millions Sign Up To Global Campaign**

By the end of June 2011 (the period under review) almost 7 million people around the world had signed a global campaign petition calling on national governments to end the trafficking of children and young people for sexual purposes. The campaign by ECPAT and The Body Shop to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People seeks to raise awareness on the issue of child sex trafficking, influence key decision-makers to make policy or legislative changes with long-term impact and raise funds for activities and programmes that support victims.

**Campaign Toolkits**

- **Youth Power** supports meaningful participation by children and young people in the campaign. The kit includes a guideline booklet, T-shirts, stickers and name badges. It is available in Mandarin Chinese, English, Nepali and Thai.

- **Campaign Advocacy Toolkit** provided guidelines for ECPAT groups and The Body Shop’s stores before the campaign petition was launched in mid-2010. It helps campaigners to conduct effective advocacy to encourage governments to act on the petition’s ‘calls to action’.

**Progress Reports**

ECPAT International, with member groups and partners, finalised 43 country-specific ‘campaign progress card’ reports during the reporting period. The reports, which monitor
and assess actions by States to implement the campaign’s advocacy objectives, provide the following:

- A snapshot of State actions to prevent, protect and provide care services for child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes
- Identification of areas that require further improvement and action
- Recommendations as a basis for country-specific petitions designed as ‘calls to action’.
- And Information set in an accessible form to empower individuals to take account and hold governments accountable.

Youth Engagement

ECPAT’s youth representatives used youth power to expand the campaign to 11 countries not initially targeted (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine and Vietnam) and secured more than 170,000 signatures for the campaign petition.

The Global Youth Partnership Project (YPP) and ECPAT groups in countries across all regions benefited from funds from The Body Shop, raised through sales of a campaign hand cream. The funds assist the following activities:

- Promotion of the right of children and young people to participate in advocacy actions
- Peer support programmes
- Community awareness-raising
- Micro-projects
- Caregiver support
- Capacity-building workshops, national forums and a global meeting.


- The Vulnerabilities of Boy Victims to Trafficking in Guatemala and Colombia; Child Trafficking Along the Borders of Belize and Mexico; and Local Manifestations of Child Trafficking and the Status of Care Services in Chile. Available in Spanish at http://www.ecpat.net/EI/EI_publications.asp


- ‘Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People Campaign’, for Council of Europe publication on public and private partnerships to eliminate sexual violence against children Available at http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/Source/PublicationSexualViolence/Sakulpitakphon.pdf

Other Anti-Child Trafficking Actions

Training for law enforcement officials, social workers and care professionals in Macau, China, in September 2010 assessed the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Macau, with a focus on child trafficking. The training sought to develop an understanding of children’s rights and child protection, provide a methodology for identifying potential or possible victims and promote child-friendly procedures. The activity connected the special administrative region’s government with important stakeholders, including officers of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), who are based in Hong Kong and also cover Macau and Taiwan.

ECPAT International also provided input for the drafting of an International Megan’s Law, at the request of the US House of Representatives. The draft bill, which is being considered by the US government, would set up a system
to notify authorities in the US and abroad of registered sex offenders’ movements.

At the request of the UK’s Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), ECPAT International trained more than 115 teachers, social workers and school counsellors at Harrow International School in Bangkok in October 2010. The activity improved the participants’ understanding of the issue of trafficking and CSEC in Thailand and provided them with resources for reporting cases.

ECPAT International conducted a similar awareness-raising session on the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, at the request of the non-profit humanitarian organisation World Concern, in Bangkok in November 2010. Thirty members of World Concern and stakeholders working on children’s issues in Southeast Asia participated.

**CHALLENGES**

For the launch of the campaign petition for the *Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People* campaign with The Body Shop, various advocacy challenges needed to be overcome in some countries. For example, in the Middle East and parts of Asia, petitions are not a common form of advocacy, and many members of the public were hesitant to sign, especially where petitions addressed national governments. A practical approach in such cases was to address the campaign petition to the United Nations rather than governments. As such, the Middle East petitions state: ‘I support the United Nations International Conventions in calling on all governments to build awareness and understanding on the issue of trafficking of children and young people as well as to take steps to provide comprehensive protection and specialised services for child and youth survivors of trafficking’. This approach positively eased public concern regarding the petitions and, to date, the campaign was well received in the Middle East, collecting over 60,000 petitions.
OUTCOMES

The *Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People* campaign and the partnership with The Body Shop is an innovative collaboration between a global network of NGOs and a private-sector business. ECPAT and The Body Shop participated in the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in 2009; former US President Bill Clinton praised the campaign as ‘an exemplary approach to addressing a specific global challenge’.

In recognition of the campaign’s importance, The Body Shop International’s International Campaigns Director, Christopher Davis, was awarded the UN Business Leader’s Award to Fight Human Trafficking at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Luxor Forum against Human Trafficking in December 2010. It was the first time a corporate leader had been recognised in such a way for dedication to tackling trafficking. The event also officially released UNODC’s *Human Trafficking and Business: Good practice to prevent and combat human trafficking*, which highlights the campaign (see publication list above).

In addition to assisting the activities of the *Global Youth Partnership Project* (see box), the campaign supports many initiatives and projects around the world. These include research on domestic and regional trafficking of children for sexual purposes, lobbying for international and regional legal standards to protect children from trafficking to be included in national legal frameworks, training of key stakeholders to identify child victims of trafficking and to implement child-friendly approaches, empowerment of child survivors and at-risk youth to conduct advocacy against trafficking, direct support to shelters assisting victims, and capacity-building to improve care standards at shelters and facilities for child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes.

Aside from gathering more than 170,000 signatures for the campaign petition, ECPAT’s youth representatives...
acted as advocates at significant international anti-human trafficking and national events, such as the Luxor Forum and the Youth Festival in South Asia 2011. ECPAT Foundation youth also enlisted the support of Thailand’s Prime Minister for the campaign on Children’s Day in January 2011.

More than 2.3 million signatures were collected in Europe alone. Since early 2011, ECPAT groups and The Body Shop have conducted more than 18 events to present the petition to national governments and to urge them to implement the calls to action. Among these events, a ceremony in June 2011 handed the European petition to the European Commission, where Commissioner Cecilia Malmström publicly pledged support for the campaign and encouraged States and decision-makers to act against trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

Our analysis of the progress achieved by the 42 States where the campaign took place revealed that the ‘Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People’ campaign has contributed to the gradual advancement of states’ efforts to prevent child trafficking and strengthen protection of child victims and vulnerable children. Indeed, 17% have made notable efforts to build or enhance child protection frameworks and stop child sex trafficking, showing a 5% increase compared to 2009. It is also encouraging that the proportion of states that have put in place some general or broad measures against human trafficking, including child sex trafficking, has seen a 10% raise over the past two years, demonstrating a slow but positive trend towards the realisation of a child’s right to protection from trafficking and sexual exploitation. Overall, the campaign inspired (and continues to inspire) change on an unprecedented scale, leading to 14 countries across the world to commit to adopting new legislation in response to this petition.

In direct response to the campaign, the following governments have publicly committed to action, including the following:

- **Malaysia**: Ministers prepared a memorandum to Parliament to ratify the *Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*.

- **Malta**: The government signed and ratified the *Council of Europe Convention on Sexual Exploitation*. A Sex Offenders Register is at an advanced stage and a new law is being drafted.

- **Denmark**: The government committed to put in place a new plan of action, which includes ensuring that child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes are not jailed or deported as criminals. The government promises that the law will protect victims of human trafficking in Denmark, and more resources and education will be provided to police and authorities to provide greater support.

- **South Africa**: The government says it intends to finalise an anti-human trafficking bill (with specific provision in regard to children) which has been ‘in consideration’ for several years.
COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TOURISM

Child sex tourists travel from their home (region or country) and sexually exploit a child at their destination location. Most child sex tourists are not paedophiles. Rather, they are situational offenders, who use the anonymity and impunity afforded by being a tourist to sexually exploit a child.

ECPAT International works with network members, governments, national tourism authorities, the tourism and travel industry, other child-rights organisations, international organisations, NGOs and local grassroots groups on various initiatives to combat child sex tourism. The programme includes advocacy, creating model policies and legislation, delivering awareness-raising campaigns and conducting capacity-building training.

One of the programme’s main activities is to promote and support the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Initiated as an ECPAT project, the Code of Conduct is now an independent organisation funded by the Japan Committee for UNICEF and supported by the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and ECPAT groups worldwide. It is an effective tool used by the tourism industry to combat child sex tourism. Tour operators and tourism organisations that adopt the Code put in place child protection policies, train staff, report cases and disclose to the Code Secretariat the ways in which they are implementing the Code and other measures to protect children.
ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Code of Conduct

ECPAT International is a permanent member of the Code of Conduct’s International Board. It holds the Vice Chair position and advises and assists the Board in approving new members, seeking donor support, planning the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and implementing annual work plans and strategies. ECPAT groups provide direct input to the Board and tourism industry members on the Code’s implementation at the national level.

The 2011 Code AGM in Berlin, which took place during the International Tourism Bourse (ITB) Travel Fair—the world’s leading travel trade show—approved the Local Code Representative (LCR) agreement. Under the agreement, approved local representatives (or LCRs) will work with member companies around the world to strengthen implementation of the Code (see box). ECPAT groups and LCRs will receive support to explain to companies a new ‘fee system’ for Code members, so that businesses understand how their contribution of an annual fee will be used to expand the Code of Conduct programme. The agreement also approves relocation of the Code’s Secretariat from New York to Bangkok, with regional offices to be set up in Europe and the Americas.

Local Partners Promote The Code of Conduct

Local Code Representatives (LCRs) are NGOs or other organisations that partner with national tourism industries and operators that subscribe to and seek to implement the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (see www.thecode.org). These organisations are experienced in child rights and the issue of CSEC, including child sex tourism and promoting responsible tourism.

LCRs are supported by ECPAT International via training programmes to understand the Code and how to use it to prevent and combat child sex tourism.

In Cambodia in August 2010, ECPAT International conducted a train-the-trainer programme on LCR development with ECPAT Cambodia. A two-day seminar followed the training in Phnom Penh, where 20 local tourism representatives discussed forms of CSEC in Cambodia, especially child sex tourism. They assessed how travel and tourism operators can employ tools such as the Code to protect children. ECPAT Cambodia is now the LCR for the Code in Cambodia.

In March 2011, similar train-the-trainer programmes were conducted with ECPAT New Zealand, ECPAT Philippines and ECPAT’s affiliate in Vietnam, CEFACOM. The programmes focused on the Code’s organisational structure and the role of ECPAT groups as LCRs working with the private sector. On completing the training and signing the LCR agreement, ECPAT New Zealand is now the LCR for the Code in New Zealand and ECPAT Philippines and CEFACOM are in the process of becoming LCRs.

New Zealand and ACCOR’s hotels in New Zealand and Fiji have since worked together to implement the Code of Conduct ahead of Rugby World Cup matches in those countries in October 2011.
ECPAT International continues to build strong partnerships with Thailand’s tourism industry.

- Shewe Wana Boutique Resort, in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, joined the Code in 2011. Thirty staff members were trained to improve their understanding of child sex tourism and its consequences, and to learn how to report cases of sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT assisted the resort to set up a child protection policy and a reporting protocol.

- Hansar Boutique Hotel in Bangkok consulted with ECPAT to learn more about child protection and strengthen their child protection policies; they trained 55 staff (management, front desk, security, house-keeping and human resources) participated in two training sessions with ECPAT in 2011 to improve their understanding of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and how to report cases.

- ECPAT is working with Property Care Services (PCS) Thailand, which is expected to become a member of the Code soon. The company employs more than 20,000 people in security, housekeeping, food services, gardening and other services. ECPAT met several times with the company and its board, explaining the Code and partnerships that support child protection, and helping to develop the company’s child protection policy and reporting procedures.

- ECPAT International is working with ACCOR to assess the government-backed Prachabodee Centre’s national 1300 hotline for reporting child sex tourism cases, and to strengthen the centre’s reporting procedures. The hotline was set up to respond to human trafficking, but the government has expanded its mandate to cover social problems including child sexual abuse and exploitation. Training is necessary for centre staff to improve their ability to deal with cases of child sex tourism.

YPP Ukraine raise awareness of child sex tourism in popular tourist destinations such as Kiev, Odessa and Simferopol.
Regional Education and Collaboration

ECPAT initiatives educate the tourism industry and promote collaboration between sending and destination countries to combat child sex tourism. ECPAT groups continue to develop and implement innovative regional programmes targeting travel agents in sending countries, so that they can alert travellers that sexual exploitation of children abroad is a crime.

In 2009, ECPAT Germany developed an online interactive course to raise awareness among tourism professionals who are unable to attend training sessions in person. The course, structured in 10 to 15-minute sessions, is an effective tool to encourage tourism workers to learn more about the issue of sexual exploitation of children, and to understand that they can play a part in ending child sex tourism. The course is available in nine languages at www.childprotection-tourism.org.

ECPAT International is collaborating with ECPAT Netherlands to develop the second phase of an anti-child sex tourism project, which began in 2009 and targeted Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Philippines and Thailand. In the first phase, ECPAT Netherlands and ECPAT International delivered workshops promoting adoption of the Code of Conduct and sought to build links between tourism actors and child rights NGOs to raise awareness that child sex tourism is a crime in Thailand. ECPAT Netherlands worked with other ECPAT group members in their respective countries.

In 2010, ECPAT International prepared a monitoring and evaluation report for ECPAT Netherlands, based on interviews with training participants in the first phase to assess perceived impediments to effective action against child sex tourism and to identify ways in which to support tourism companies operating in Thailand. The project’s next phase starts in 2012.

• ECPAT International worked with Oad Reizen, a Netherlands based tour operator and Code member, to train 30 travel agents so that they have relevant information to alert Dutch tourists visiting Thailand how to report possible cases.

and CSEC. Officials at the centre will therefore join a child protection training programme with ACCOR in 2012.
ECPAT EXPERTISE SHARED

ECPAT International attended numerous events during the year to deliver presentations on the Code, sharing information on lessons learnt, addressing perceived challenges and promoting the development of strong partnerships with the private sector, including the following:

• A Save the Children UK workshop in London in February 2011 focused on protecting children from exploitation, including sexual exploitation, in the construction sector. About 20 participants attended, including representatives from UNICEF, the Harvard School of Public Health, Save the Children Mozambique, Brazil’s World Childhood Foundation, India’s Mobile Crèches and the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.

• A meeting with AUSAID, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) and World Vision partners in the Childhood Project provided information on child sex tourism and made recommendations on the project’s prevention and protection pillars, highlighting good practices such as the Code.

• ECPAT delivered a presentation at a UNWTO seminar in Bali, Indonesia, in April 2011, on ‘Responsible Tourism and its Social-Economic Impact on Local Communities’. It also addressed a World Committee on Ethics in Tourism session, advocating for stronger child protection measures in the travel industry.

• ECPAT conducted a workshop in April 2011 for US Homeland Security Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) on ECPAT’s actions to combat CSEC in Asia, including promotion of the Code. Participants represented Thailand’s government and law enforcement agencies, Thailand NGOs, United Nations agencies, foreign governments and civil society.

CHALLENGES

Several important challenges in the past year included the need to keep stakeholders informed about changes to the Code of Conduct, and the impacts of economic and political instability at a global and national level.

Reforms in the organisational structure of the Code require assisting all ECPAT groups to be informed of the changes and the Code’s evolution as a tool for combating child sex tourism. The successful development of a network of LCRs requires sustained capacity-building for members of the Code and ECPAT International, and potential members.

In the face of a global economic downturn, tourism companies around the world are reducing their attention to issues of corporate social responsibility, including child protection initiatives. ECPAT International will continue to work with the travel industry and tourism operators to find cost-effective and innovative ways to maintain and build collaboration, for example by leveraging tourism-focused activities with parallel projects.

ECPAT is committed to working with Thailand’s Ministry of Tourism and Sport and all relevant government departments in Thailand to help ensure that Thailand’s National Plan of Action to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism is finalised and implemented.

However, political instability in Thailand in recent years has seen significant turnover in government personnel and shifts in priorities. This, in turn, affected ECPAT International’s engagement with personnel in the Ministry, and drafting of the National Plan of Action stalled in 2006. However, in a very welcome development, in June 2011 ECPAT International met with the government’s Sub-Committee on the National Plan of Action and with the Ministry. ECPAT is now in a working group to resume drafting the National Plan of Action.
OUTCOMES

The strong positive partnership between ECPAT International and ACCOR in promoting implementation of the Code of Conduct was recognised when the two organisations were awarded Travel and Leisure Magazine’s 2010 Global Vision Award in Leadership for Human Rights Partnership. ACCOR also received the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) Tourism for Tomorrow Award for Responsible Global Tourism Business.

Since ECPAT and ACCOR began their partnership in 2001, more than 70,000 ACCOR employees have been trained in risk-prevention and awareness-raising on child sex tourism. Within ACCOR worldwide, the Code is being implemented in 36 countries: Austria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, France, Fiji, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Hungary, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Laos, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay and Vietnam.

In Thailand, 145 tourism professionals have benefited from training by ECPAT International in the reporting period (excluding ACCOR staff). While many participants initially said they had little or no knowledge of how to report incidents of child sexual exploitation, they now show an increased understanding of CSEC as an issue, the importance of corporate policies to combat such exploitation, and how to report possible cases. Many say they feel empowered to act against such crimes, and that they felt this was a responsibility of their work. Most participants said they would now report cases and seek to share their knowledge with co-workers, family and friends.

As noted above, the Thai government took positive steps during the year to renew drafting of the country’s National Plan of Action. ECPAT International will assist as a member of a government-initiated working group to ensure the process remains on track.
INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

ECPAT has always been at the forefront of researching the commercial sexual exploitation of children and producing rigorous, academic and accurate publications on the situation at a global and grassroots level. Strong, accurate and up-to-date information on CSEC is an essential foundation for the construction of any prevention or rehabilitation strategy, and it is at the heart of everything ECPAT does. To this end, ECPAT produces a variety of reports in multiple languages.

The ECPAT Secretariat plays a critical role to facilitate communications and coordination within and outside the network. To support the exchange of information and updates, the Secretariat issues regular e-bulletins, CSEC news alerts, special edition newsletters and regional updates. The ECPAT website also hosts relevant publications and news articles.

Organisations such as ECPAT International are often asked to provide statistics and information on children affected by sexual exploitation. ECPAT is committed to providing accurate information, noting that the contexts, behaviours and laws pertaining to CSEC are always changing and that accurate estimates and evidence of
the scope and scale of violations against children can be extremely difficult to produce. ECPAT International works on the ground to gather information and publish reports and develop evidence-based strategies so that children everywhere can benefit from appropriate targeted and effective protection from commercial sexual exploitation.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Agenda for Action

In May 2011, ECPAT International’s newly formed Research and Policy Development (RPD) programme assumed responsibility for overseeing the production and publication of ECPAT International’s Agenda for Action Reports.

The State reports represent ECPAT’s commitment to hold governments accountable and to ensure they fulfill their commitments to implement legislation that protects children and prevents perpetrators of CSEC from acting with impunity.

With the assistance of ECPAT groups, the reports garner information from a wide range of sources about developments at a country level toward honouring the responsibilities of States to protect children from CSEC. They highlight government actions and important developments in civil society, the private sector and with other key stakeholders, including children and young people.

Twenty reports are expected to be published by the end of October 2011.

Trafficking of Children in Latin America

Every year, ECPAT International capitalises on its expansive network to garner information at a grassroots level and to produce ground-breaking research. In the year under review, ECPAT conducted an in-depth investigation on trafficking of children for sexual purposes in Latin America, to evaluate the situation on the ground and use this information to construct practical, appropriate and evidence-based models of prevention and care. On a country-by-country basis, the main findings were as follows.

In Guatemala, the research (La Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños y Adolescentes Varones en Guatemala) focused on the situation of boys in particular. It found that boys born to adult sex workers or living in red-light areas are sexually exploited in many ways and grow up believing that prostitution is a common way to make a living. Such boys are mostly Guatemalans, though many are the sons of migrants from neighbouring countries in Central America. Teenage boy victims of prostitution and trafficking are mostly undocumented migrants on their way to the United States, coming from areas of Guatemala, as well as El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. A widespread lack of awareness about this issue leads to social tolerance and impunity for perpetrators who sexually exploit boys. The research recommended enactment of laws explicitly to protect boys from sexual exploitation and training for law enforcement agents and caregivers to improve protection of boys from CSEC.

In Colombia, the research (Aproximación a la Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños y Adolescentes de Sexo Masculino en Bogotá y Cartagena de Indias) found that commercial sexual exploitation of boys occurs mainly in public places such as streets, parks, beaches and entertainment establishments. It is more common during tourist high seasons, with Bogota said to be turning into a ‘gay sex tourism’ destination. Factors predisposing commercial sexual exploitation of boys and male adolescents are rejection by their
families regarding their homosexuality, social exclusion due to dysfunctional families and absence of a father figure. Another factor is sexual abuse in a boy’s early childhood, often by a male close to them. This abuse can be difficult to identify due to cultural aspects linked to the roles of males, denial of sexual abuse, discrimination and homophobia in schools. Lack of awareness of the issue of sexual exploitation of boys is compounded by social constructs about masculinity and gender violence.

In Mexico, the research (Trata y Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes en la Frontera de México con Belice) identified a high prevalence of sexual exploitation of teenage girls from Mexico and neighbouring countries in tourism areas, including at bars, casinos, massage parlours and brothels. Cuban criminal networks operate along the Mexico-Belize border, and there is a strong connection between drug trafficking and sexual exploitation since the same routes, individuals and mechanisms are involved. The research noted lack of awareness and data on the sexual exploitation and trafficking of boys.

In Chile, the research (Estudio de las Manifestaciones locales de Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños y Adolescentes, incluyendo la Especificidad de Víctimas Jóvenes Hombres y los Modelos de Atención a Víctimas) confirm that child sex tourism is underreported. Chile is not considered a destination country for child sex tourism, yet occasional abusers exploit underage children in local hotels without creating concern in the community. Victims of child trafficking are reported to be females only and are more severely affected by drug use and abandonment. Because of their strong need for affection and protection, they can have strong bonds with their exploiters, who cut the girls’ connections with their immediate networks of family and friends. Child victims tend to feel responsible for their exploitation. They consider it ‘inevitable’ for the provision of the needs of themselves and their families. Their loyalty toward their exploiters and contradictory feelings of anger, sadness and guilt make interventions very difficult and complex.

Youth-led Research in South Asia

In India, Bangladesh and Nepal, members of the YPP project, or the Youth Partnership Project for Child Survivors and Youth at Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, completed surveys to study the multiple vulnerabilities of at-risk children and youth living and working in red light areas, slums, restaurants and dance bars. The research, conducted with the support of YPP Child Protection Officers, involved the design of specific questionnaires along with data collection and in-depth analysis. The three surveys helped to facilitate regional comparison of the data to improve understanding of the vulnerability to CSEC of young people in South Asia, and better equip YPP youth to provide effective outreach services and support to the most at-risk young people.

In India, a Study on the Vulnerability of Children Living in the Red Light Areas of Kolkata, was undertaken by ECPAT’s partner organisation, Sanlaap. It provided a better understanding of the realities faced by children living and growing up in the four largest red-light areas in Kolkata - Kalighat, Bowbazar, Tollygunge and Khidderpur. The research was based on the premise that identifying and analysing the risk factors that may push children into sexually exploitative situations is a necessary pre-condition for the development of tailored measures to improve their protection.

In Bangladesh, a Survey on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Vulnerable Children & Youth in Dhaka Slum Areas was conducted by ECPAT’s partner organisation in Bangladesh, Aparajeyo. The study provided first-hand information on the general living conditions of children within the slum environment and their vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, trafficking and early marriage.
In Nepal, a Study on the Vulnerability of Young Girls Working in Restaurants, Bars and Massage Parlours in Kathmandu, was developed and conceptualised by ECPAT’s YPP partner organisation, Maiti Nepal, with Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) and Bishwas Nepal. This youth-led survey studied the risk factors affecting young girls employed in the entertainment and service industries in Kathmandu. The specific objectives were to assess the vulnerability of children and youth working in cabin restaurants, dance bars, massage parlours and dohori restaurants in Kathmandu; identify the level of awareness among young people working in these establishments regarding possible exploitation and dangers; and explore measures to strengthen the protection of these children and young people based on feedback and recommendations from their peers.

Research on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Singapore

The Body Shop and ECPAT International conducted research on trafficking of children for sexual purposes in Singapore. Until this report was prepared, almost no research had been conducted on this issue in the Singaporean context. The study on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Young People in Singapore interviewed more than 100 people, including affected minors, young people and other key informants. The research confirmed for the first time that Singapore is primarily a destination country for women, children and young people who are trafficked from at least five countries - Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and China.
YPP Bangladesh Peer Support Programme to raise awareness of children’s rights and child protection at a government school
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR THE PERIOD
July 2010 – June 2011

Total income
$2,573,810

Total Expenditure
$2,415,999

Project Expenditures

1 Cutting Edge Knowledge on CSEC ($140,375)
2 Monitoring Commitments for Improved Implementation and Greater Accountability of Relevant Stakeholders ($175,428)
3 Strengthening Public Education, Awareness Building and Corporate Social Responsibility ($172,802)
4 Promoting and Facilitating the Integration and Effective Measures Across Sectors to Address CSEC ($322,466)
5 Empowering Children and Youth to Meaningfully Participate ($774,332)
6 Building and Enhancing Strategic Collaborations ($830,596)

Donors

1 Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation ($2,335)
2 ACCOR Asia ($7,057)
3 ECPAT Netherlands ($12,657)
4 ECPAT ChildALERT ($21,172)
5 Comic Relief/Christian Aid/Evan Cornish Foundation ($22,047)
6 ECPAT Luxembourg/Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg ($33,050)
7 Sundry donation ($37,544)
8 Cordaid ($37,750)
9 International Child Support ($41,047)
10 Ladies Circle International ($73,650)
11 The Body Shop Norway ($77,650)
12 Latin American Children’s Trust ($115,173)
13 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland ($195,030)
14 Irish Aid ($197,750)
15 Air France ($274,900)
16 Oak Foundation ($400,000)
17 The Body shop ($461,215)
18 Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) ($563,800)

* all amounts in USD

*Full Audited Financial Statements can be downloaded from our website. www.ecpat.net
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ECPAT International is the only network exclusively dedicated to ending child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes.