

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism



We protect children from sex tourism.

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The Code Quarterly

International Newsletter No. 23, January – March 2009

Contributors:

Americas

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3. Belize Travel Industry Association, Daedra Haylock
4. ECPAT USA, Carol Smolenski
5. Ecuador Ministry of Tourism, Sandy Morales Herrera
6. Stabroek News, Guyana

Europe

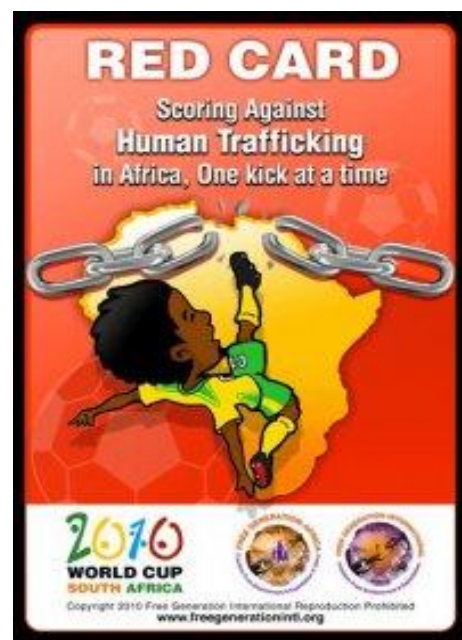
7. TUI Travel Plc, Kylie McCabe
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Africa

11. Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa, Jennifer Seif
12. AllAfrica.com

Asia

13. Equations and the Deccan Herald, India



Source: <http://www.freegenerationintl.org>

Welcome to the most recent Tourism Child-Protection Code members!



travel counsellors

TUI Travel Plc – including *TUI Northern Region* (UK, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland: First Choice, Thomson, Fritidsresor, Startours, Finnmatkat, TEMA);
TUI Western Europe (NL, Belgium, France: TUI NL, Marmara, Nouvelles Frontieres, Jetair NV);
TUI Central Europe (TUI Deutschland, TUI Austria, TUI Suisse, TUI Poland, Gebeco).

USA – Global Exchange

The Netherlands – Travel Councillors

Costa Rica – Elemento Natural, Unique Adventures, Rincón del Valle

Mexico – Hoteles Misión and Hoteles NH

Thailand – Ravindra Beach Resort & Spa

Calendar of events March - June 2010

Date	Place	Main organizer, Event, Participation
March 13	Berlin	The Child-Protection Code of Conduct Organization – AGM 2010 - Elections Board of Directors 2010-2013 -
March 25	Cuenca	Ecuador Ministry of Tourism “Training of trainers”
March 30	Minsk	“International Round Table – Business response to Human Trafficking in Belarus” with participation of ECPAT Austria
April 20-25	Berlin	ECPAT Germany participation at the 20 th Reisepavillon (International conference on sustainable tourism)
May 2-7	Quito	38 th Congress of SKAL Latin America with information on child-protection provided by the Ecuador Ministry of Tourism

INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BEFORE

June 25, 2009



The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, an industry-driven responsible tourism initiative, in collaboration with ECPAT, co-funded by UNICEF and supported by the UNWTO.

www.thecode.org

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We protect children from sex tourism.

1. Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism - Secretariat

Dr. Camelia Tepelus, March 26, 2010

• ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010, March 13, Berlin

On March 13, 2010, the Child-Protection Code organization held its Annual General Meeting in Berlin at Novotel am Tiergarten, kindly hosted by Accor. In addition to Code members, the AGM was also attended by representatives of UNWTO, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Council of Europe, GTZ, and the South American Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism.

The AGM 2010 elections resulted in the Board of Directors 2010-2013, composed of:

5 industry seats:

- Kuoni Holding** – representing tour operators
- Accor Hotels** – representing hotels
- DRV** – representing travel agencies
- SKÅL International** – representing other tourism organizations
- Sun n Sand Kenya** – open industry seat

4 non-industry seats:

- ECPAT International** – permanent member
- FTTSA** – Local Code Representative seat
- ECPAT Austria** – Local Code Representative seat (co-opted by the Board).

Individual member seat – to be co-opted following revisions of statutes at the AGM 2011;

Lotta Sand – Legal Representative.

Additional decisions approved at the AGM include:

- Revision of the existing reference LCR Agreement text to take place over the next weeks, to be followed by invoices sent to all confirmed members.
- The BoD will prepare necessary statute amendments for approval at the AGM 2011. The BoD and Secretariat will pursue confirmation of membership, LCR agreements and invoicing of member companies, as well as additional funding opportunities for the Code, including SECO and GTZ.
- Fees for 2011 will be maintained at the same level as fees for 2010 (50, 300, 800 Euro).

Board of Directors 2010-2013



Advisory partners:



Collaboration of Carlson and TheCode shortlisted for the Ethical Corporation 2010 awards

Carlson and the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct international organization and have the pleasure of announcing that their partnership for the protection of children in tourism, was shortlisted in the running for the **‘Ethical Corporation’ 2010 Awards**, in the category **‘Best Collaboration’**. Carlson was the first major US company to sign the Code with ECPAT USA in April 2004, and has been actively engaged in awareness raising and information about child-protection policies in the US travel and tourism industry, notably through its Chairperson, Marilyn Carlson Nelson.

The application for this award was submitted with support from ECPAT International, UNWTO and UNICEF. Carlson is the only company from the travel and tourism sector that was shortlisted for the Ethical Corporation awards - the final decision on the award winners will be revealed on May 4, 2010 at the Responsible Business Summit at Novotel London West.



- **The UNWTO Task Force Meeting took place at ITB, on March 12, 2010.**

Presentations focused on new training tools for the prevention of child exploitation in tourism, developed by ILO/IPEC, ECPAT International, ECPAT Germany and ECPAT UK. Government representatives from India, Indonesia and Brazil also presented updates from their countries on campaigns for the protection of children in tourism. OSCE, the Japan Committee for UNICEF as well as other NGO and industry representatives also had interventions.



- **Research project to develop assessment criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the Code implementation under preparation together with the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre**



Together with the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, the Code organization is in the process of defining Terms of Reference for a joint research project that will develop assessment criteria and evaluate the effectiveness of the Code through case studies of the experiences and lessons learned. It is estimated that the project will run between summer 2010 through spring 2011.

- **To all partners that may require child-protection consulting services.**

The Code Secretariat has details of experienced child protection consultants with skills and knowledge available to assist efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, including: development and delivery of specialist training; undertaking cutting-edge research; government liaison; proposal development; policy writing; program design, monitoring and evaluation; and project and program management. Please contact camelia.tepelus@thecode.org for further information.

Attention to all tourism industry members of the Code:

Following the changes in statutes that came into force on Sept 1, 2009, the Code organization will initiate a system of membership fees starting with the financial year 2010. The fees decided for the financial years 2010 and 2011 are:

- **50 € per Year** For small tourism companies (having only local activities)
- **300 € per Year** For medium tourism companies (operating in several locations, revenues under 2.5 Mil Euro/year)
- **800 € per Year** For large companies (revenues over 2.5 Mil Euro/year).

The membership fees can be paid securely on-line via PayPal, using a valid credit card on www.thecode.org. Please contact the Secretariat (camelia.tepelus@thecode.org) if an invoice from The Child Protection Code organization is needed in order to proceed to payment.

The existing members that joined the Code prior to Sept 1 2009 will be maintained as Code members for the year 2010, but de-listed after Sept 2010 unless the membership fee is paid.

Purpose: The purpose of the membership fee is to provide a way for the Code members to support the Code international organization in further developing and promoting the child-protection cause in the tourism industry and in other regions/countries. The fees will support the Child-Protection Code organization:

1. To expand awareness and training activities;
2. To build more knowledge on responsible tourism and child protection in the travel sector;
3. To do further research on the effectiveness of the tourism Child-Protection Code;
4. To expand its administrative and resource base.

Membership service: The fees will facilitate members the following services:

1. Give members access to the use of TheCode.org logo.
2. Members are listed on the international signatory list and promoted as responsible tourism companies on the Code website.
3. Members receive the quarterly international newsletter and other communications such as the Minutes of the Annual General Meetings of the international Child-Protection Code organization.
4. Members receive assistance and communication support in liaising with ECPAT partners, local code representatives and the international Secretariat, and access to the restricted sections of the website (to include contacts data-base, research reports, internal discussion fora, etc. – currently under development)
5. Members have a right to vote for the decisions submitted to the Annual General Assembly of the Code. Members are able to nominate and be nominated as Board Members of the Code international organization.

We thank you for your support of responsible tourism and the Child-Protection Code of Conduct!

2. Belize Tourism Industry Association

Daedra Haylock, BTIA Executive Director March 29, 2010



BTIA presents on the Child Protection Code at St. John's College

Belize City, Belize March 23, 2010. On January 12, 2010 BTIA was contacted by The Code Organization to consider BTIA formally becoming the "Local Code Representative" for Belize under the new statutes. BTIA is honored to be considered worthy and the Board of Directors has recently accepted this important responsibility.

Maria Vega, BTIA's The Code trainer, delivered two Guest Lectures to 120 students of St. John's College Sixth Forum on March 10, 2010. Professor Lawrence Sticca thanked Ms. Vega remarking that his colleagues at St. John's College, Humanities & Social Sciences, appreciated the presentation made to the combined classes of Anthropology, Sociology, Caribbean Studies, Social Justice & Caribbean Sociology for a most informative talk on Prevention of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism.

The students were most appreciative and impressed with the lively discussion and are now more aware of this social issue as well as what to do to prevent and report it. Child Protection logo stickers were also distributed at the lectures and copies with the Dean of Student Affairs.

BTIA became involved in two activities of the Youth Enhancement Services (YES) through the recommendation of the Belize Tourism Board. BTIA is included in the YES upcoming countrywide public awareness for Prevention of Human Trafficking scheduled as per below:

- April 26, 2010 – San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District
- May 10, 2010 – Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District
- May 17, 2010 – Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District

BTIA is the recipient of public awareness materials courtesy of Youth Enhancement Services (YES) to assist in their campaign against commercial sexual exploitation titled, "My Future is Not for Sale".



In the wider Belizean community, the country was successful in apprehending a registered sex offender from the United States of America and he was escorted him out of the country by local security officials on Tuesday February 23, 2010.

The arrested and deported sexual offender was Robert Saterdalen, a 71-year-old US National, who was wanted by the authorities in the United States for offenses related to his failure to register as a convicted Sex Offender. In addition, on February 27, 2010, Belize was featured on America's Most Wanted (AMW) as a result of a tip from an avid Belizean viewer of the program led to the apprehension of child predator, Robert Snyder, who had been hiding out in Belize.

3. International Bureau for Children's Rights, Canada

Marco Sotelo, March 22, 2010



INTERNATIONAL
BUREAU
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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INTERNACIONAL DE
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO



The Quebec tourism and travel industry says “no” to Child Sex Tourism

Montreal, March 20, 2010 –after an information forum on child sex tourism coordinated by the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR), Thomas Cook and SkyLink Voyages on December 2, 2009, agencies from the tourism and travel industry decided to act by forming a committee. In close collaboration with the Bureau representatives a banner was created with the objective of dissuading potential abusers and encourage travellers to report suspicious behaviours while abroad.

Ms. Colette Girard from Jolivac explains her commitment to the campaign: “during the forum my colleagues and I were shocked to discover that men who have sexual relations with children or adolescents on their trips are mostly “average Joes” who believe that they can do whatever they want in another country without any form of consequence. **If we can influence even one individual with this campaign, we will have accomplished our goal in protecting children**”. The participants at the forum including Vacances Tours, Mont-Royal, Incursion Voyages, Jolivac, Thomas Cook, Canandes International Tours, Sunwing, Tours Chanteclerc and SkyLink Voyages have all asserted their concern about the issue and are actively incorporating the banner into their different channels of communication (email contacts, itinerary, website, etc.) in order to disseminate the campaign. IBCR is pleased that this proposal came from the private sector itself and believes that these partnerships will lead to further joint initiatives. One of the main recommendations of the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents was to reinforce the collaboration between governments, NGOs and the private sector in the fight against sexual exploitation,

The IBCR is particularly grateful to Jolivac for their role in the committee and their enthusiastic partnership throughout the development of the campaign. It is important to the Bureau that this first step in the fight against child sex tourism be followed by others. We plan on enforcing this educational campaign using informative pamphlets that will be distributed in airports and the consulate offices of the main travel destinations visited by Quebecers.



If funds allow, we look forward to producing an in-flight video about child sex tourism. Simultaneously, the IBCR will continue developing projects in these destinations in order to change the social tolerance surrounding this issue and hence close the circle of sexual exploitation, declares Marco Sotelo, Programme Manager for the Prevention of Child Sex Tourism at the IBCR.

A growing phenomenon

According to a study by law professor Benjamin Perrin from the University of British Columbia, **at least 146 Canadian citizens have been charged with child sex offences overseas between 1993 and 2007**. Offenders, mostly men, usually travel from a rich country to a developing region such as Latin America, an area which is growing in popularity and replacing Southern Asia as the main destination for sex offenders due to its low cost and close proximity.

In Canada, an extraterritorial law allows for the pursuit and prosecution of Canadians who commit sexual abuse on children abroad. Despite the recent convictions of Donald Bakker from British Columbia as well as Armand Huard and Denis Rochefort from Quebec, Child Sex Tourism and its consequences remain fairly unknown amongst the Canadian population. For more information please visit the International Bureau of Children's Rights website at www.ibcr.org.

4. ECPAT USA

Carol Smolenski, April 6, 2010



- **Postcard campaign on the protection of children in tourism**
“I am a responsible traveller. I deserve to know. Are you on the list. (Because I’ve got quite a few options)”



Front

ECPAT USA designed a postcard aiming to educate responsible travellers on the issue of protecting children from sexual exploitation in tourism. The card is intended to be signed and sent or dropped off at a hotel or tourist company by responsible travellers. The hotel/tour operator is informed that the Code of conduct is a tool available for training and prevention of sex tourism. The card includes a selection of names of tourism companies already signatories of the Code in different countries.



Back

- **Sex Tourism: ABC News Undercover Investigation Into The Fishing And Hunting Tourism Industry**



Federal law enforcement sources tell ABC News that the FBI and customs officials are investigating allegations that some fishing and hunting tour businesses are arranging sex with children for American men overseas. ABC News wanted to know what tour operators offer and whether they market an illegal sex trade? Wearing hidden cameras, we entered a convention, sponsored by the Dallas Safari Club, where tour companies sell top-dollar hunting and fishing trips all over the world -- some with promises of great parties and beautiful women. "I mean, it's a third world country and you can do whatever you want," one tour operator told us. "You know if you want to do a party it's not like here—you can't touch, you can't look—you can do whatever the f**k you want."



Federal law enforcement sources tell ABC News that ICE and the FBI are investigating the fishing and hunting tour operating business for arranging sex for American men overseas. (ABC News)

Said another, "It will start off with six [young women], then it will be twelve, and then it'll be eighteen and then you guys will be just retreating. I'm serious." But we've heard it's not just women on offer; it's also young girls. We found one operator who, after at first refusing, tells us when we catch up with him the following day that he can make it happen.

"We'll float the idea to my guy that's going to take care of this thing for you and he can get it done," he says. "I know...he can get that done. But it's probably going to be...it's going to have to be real stealthy...in other words, I don't know...and I'm not saying anything but something is going to happen." Federal investigators are looking into possible child sex abuse on tours from Central and South America to Africa.

Phil Marsteller, who operates fishing tours in Brazil, says abusing minors has become a cancer on his industry. "What better way to get away from your wife and go be the -- you know, have the Jekyll and Hyde personality and go do something else than going on a fishing trip to the Amazon that's viewed as family friendly," he said.

The offenders aren't who you might expect. "You're talking about business people, doctors, lawyers, politicians," says Marsteller. "You know, people with lots of money."

Marsteller has gathered pictures and video of what he says are underage Amazonian Indian girls cavorting with American men on board a competitor's boat.

Brazilian authorities are looking into those allegations and have obtained affidavits from Amazonian Indian girls as young as 13 who say that employees for an American fishing tour operator came to their villages and offered them cleaning jobs, which they accepted because they needed the money.

Once on the boat, however, they say they were forced to pose in nude pictures and have sex. We met two girls who told us they were given string bikinis and cocaine – and then expected to have sex. "I was forced to have relations with one of them," says one girl, who was 16 at the time. In a sworn affidavit, another girl, who was just 13 at the time, says she was impregnated by an American whose name she didn't even know -- and that afterwards her family threw her out. That tour operator and Marsteller competitor says it's all lies.

But listen to what the tour operator we spoke to on hidden camera in Dallas -- the one who said he could introduce us to someone who would arrange for us to meet underage girls had to say about Marsteller. "There's a code of the West in this industry that nobody breaks -- and he broke it. That's why nobody likes him." When ABC News later contacted that tour operator, he insisted he never had arranged for clients to meet young girls and would never have followed through on his offer to help provide them.

(Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/sex-tourism/story?id=10288468>)

- **Letter campaign to hotels in South Africa to prevent trafficking and sex tourism at the World Cup soccer games in June**

ECPAT USA will be featured in a press release from Christian Brothers Investment Services and a coalition of socially responsible investors, including the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and faith-based groups, based on a letter to be sent in mid-April to hotels in South Africa asking for their help to combat human trafficking and child sex tourism as the country readies for the World Cup soccer games this June and July.

Close to a half million visitors are expected and it is estimated that \$4 billion in revenue will be generated, the highest in World Cup history. The influx of visitors to The World Cup raises serious concerns about possible increase in the abuse, exploitation and trafficking in persons, especially children, during the events. By joining this letter, we will let hotels know of our concerns about Human Trafficking, encourage them to formulate a response, and share information about The Code (www.thecode.org), a common framework used by many members of the tourism industry for guiding anti-commercial sex tourism policy development and supported by nearly 1000 companies in 23 countries, UNICEF, the European Union, a number of national governments and other organizations.

The letter will go to the CEOs of 8 major chains and to their 50 hotel managers located in the 9 cities where the World Cup will take place: Accor (brands: Mercure and Formule1), Best Western, Hyatt, Hilton, InterContinental (brands: Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza), Starwood (Westin and Sheraton), NH Hoteles, and Carlson Companies. It strongly suggests that training sessions be conducted immediately to ensure that all staff are on the alert for situations that might appear to involve child sex tourism or other forms of human trafficking and that systems are set up in the hotel so that it is clear how staff should respond. Letters to Accor, NH, and Carlson will commend these companies for their leadership in signing The Code.

- **ECPAT USA Protect Children in Tourism project in Mexico**

Mision Hotels a hotel chain 100% Mexican-owned has signed the Code on February 3, 2010, in the context of a collaboration project between ECPAT USA and UNICEF Mexico. Roberto Zapata, General Director of Mision Hotels stated «joining the Code of Conduct is a commitment to responsible tourism and to continue working according to the ethical norms of the sector (..) our prevention role is fundamental, since we are in direct contact with the tourist and we can send a clear and direct message that sexual exploitation of children is a crime that we are paying attention to, and will not tolerate ». In the framework of the same joint project between ECPAT USA and UNICEF Mexico NH Hotels had signed the Code in Oct. 2009.



Javier Álvarez, deputy representative of UNICEF in Mexico, Roberto Zapata Llabrés, General Director of Hoteles Misión and Amaya Renobales, ECPAT USA PCT Director.

5. Ecuador Ministry of Tourism
Sandy Morales Herrera, March 31, 2010



Ecuador, through its Ministry of Tourism, acting as coordinator of the Regional Task Force for the Americas has launched the musical-theatre play: **“Stories told with the heart”** in 21 cities of Ecuador. This event is targeted to families, educators, community, local authorities, local citizen networks and is a part of the National and Regional Action Plan on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Travel and Tourism.

Through this theater play we hope to generate a new way to look and reflect on the challenges of all Ecuadorian citizens to protect children’s rights.

- Quito, 11 March 2010.

The Program on **“Training of trainers on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Tourism”** has reached so far the cities of Loja, Cuenca, Quito, Shushufindi in Ecuador. This program is addressed to trainers from the public and private sector, and the civil society, which in turn replicate the message inside their communities and organizations.

- 3-4 May 2010

The 38th SKAL Latin American congress will include a presentation on the programs for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism in South America.

- 5 May 2010

The 5th Annual Meeting of the Regional Task Force for the Americas will be taking place hosted by Ecuador. All actions to be carried out in the region through the Regional Task Force for the Americas can be viewed at <http://www.grupodeaccionregional.org/> and www.regionaltaskforce.org



6. Stabroek News: Guyana’s leading daily newspaper

UNICEF study links child sex abuse ‘business’ in some Caribbean territories to tourism

April 3, 2010. The commercialization of child sex abuse in the tourism sector in some Caribbean territories is becoming an escalating problem, according to a recent study commissioned by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). And the study, carried out over the past year in six Caribbean countries – **Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis** – suggests that regional politicians, senior professionals and businessmen are part of the practice of selling and buying sex in business transactions that are underpinned by the exploitation and abuse of young children.



A cruise ship berthed in Grenada

The report, titled **‘Perceptions of, Attitudes to and Opinions on Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean’** cites the tourist industry in the region as an area where the proclivity for deviant sexual practices by visitors to the region has been ‘packaged’ by service providers in various forms of emerging child abuse including the use of boys to provide sexual services to cruise ship passengers.

The UNICEF study, reportedly the first of its kind in the region and involving more than 1400 respondents in the five

Caribbean territories alludes to an escalating pattern of “transactional sexual abuse” in which sex, involving the abuse of minors, is exchanged for money, goods or favours and in which high officials in Caribbean society including politicians and senior professionals are involved. Such is the extent of this problem, that it was considered a firmly entrenched and established pattern of behaviour that did not need to be hidden since it was unlikely to attract penalty and, in some circumstances, would not even attract disapproval,” the report says. The study also found evidence of a lucrative market for child sex tourism alluding to ‘several specific examples of an organized paedophile network,’ in which it found that “boys were a specific target.”

The report presents what it says is “an alarming picture of a social problem that is escalating, has increasingly severe consequences for Caribbean societies, has multiple layers and is perpetuated not only by adults who carry out harmful sexual practices with children but also by non-abusing

adults through complicity, silence, denial and failure to take appropriate action.” While the report addresses the problem of ‘sex abuse tourism’ as a social rather than an economic phenomenon it raises the spectre of the Caribbean, particularly the vulnerable populations in the poorer territories in the region becoming an increasing target for sexually deviant visitors from outside the region.

And even as the debate in Guyana and elsewhere in the region over the use of cellular phones in by children in schools rages, the study said that it found evidence of newly emerging trends in sexual abuse and deviancy in the region including cell phone pornography and internet abuse, the latter manifesting itself in “children being approached by predators through social networking sites.” Meanwhile, the report also cites opportunistic child sexual abuse linked to natural disasters, a phenomenon which could also have commercial underpinnings. “Natural disasters often result in families being relocated to temporary shelters where children are sharing living space with adults who take advantage of them; families are disrupted and focused on survival, this may lead to children being left unsupervised; children may have to fend for themselves and their siblings and are at increased risk of being sexually exploited in return for money,” the report says.

And the report says that in the wake of these emerging sex abuse challenges regional governments may have to reframe their perspectives on child abuse at the policy level through, among other things, the introduction of child-sensitive justice systems for sexual abuse crimes

7. TUI Travel’s Mainstream businesses sign up to the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct

Kylie McCabe, April 1, 2010



On the 6th April, Johan Lundgren, Managing Director of TUI Northern Region signed the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct on behalf of all of TUI Travel’s Mainstream businesses.

Through the signing, TUI Travel’s Mainstream businesses commit to implementing the submitted Action Plan relating to the fulfilment of six criteria at all destinations where sexual exploitation of children is considered an issue of high concern, and to be transparent in the monitoring of these actions.

TUI Travel’s Mainstream businesses (TUI Northern Region, TUI Western Europe and TUI Central Europe) will feature as signatory members on The Code website (www.thecode.org). The businesses operate in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, France, Belgium and The Netherlands.

TUI Travel businesses have been engaged for many years in the protection of children in tourism, and many have policies, processes and training in place to help colleagues and customers recognise suspicious situations and report them to the proper authorities. TUI Nordic has been a signatory of the Code since 1998 and TUI Nederland’s since 2002. A Group-wide Child Protection Policy was launched in February 2010 highlighting our commitment to child protection– both those we take on holiday and those in destinations.

8. Council of Europe

Francisco Empis, March 24, 2010

Council of Europe steps up its action to combat sexual violence against children



Strasbourg, 22.03.2010 – In ratifying the **Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse** today, San Marino has cleared the way for the convention to come into force on 1 July this year.

Designed to protect children against all forms of sexual violence, whether committed by persons close to the victims (such as sexual abuse within the family or in care facilities) or by strangers, the convention represents a significant advance in terms of stepping up prevention, victim protection and the prosecution of offenders, regardless of where the offences are committed, while also fostering international co-operation.

To date, the convention has been signed by 38 countries and ratified by five of them: Albania, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands and San Marino.

The convention also includes measures to fight offences committed through the Internet, such as online child pornography and “grooming” (where adults seek to enter into contact with children or adolescents for sexual purposes, for example through chat rooms).

San Marino’s ratification comes on the eve of the opening of the Council of Europe’s [annual conference](#) on cybercrime, which will focus in particular on the **measures to be taken to combat more effectively the sexual abuse and exploitation of children via the Internet**. Should child pornography content be taken down or access to the relevant sites blocked? Over 300 participants from the public and private sectors from all over the world will carry forward the debate already under way at national level in several European countries.

Governments which have not yet done so are once again urged to sign and ratify the [Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) and the [Convention on Cybercrime](#). For more information, see www.coe.int/children and www.coe.int/cybercrime.

9. ECPAT Germany

Marion Kreissl, March 25, 2010



“Offenders Beware”!

Second International Expert Meeting on Reporting Procedures, 7-9 March, Berlin

ECPAT Germany, together with its partners from the EU financed project „Offenders Beware“ organized the second international Expert meeting from 7th to 9th of March in Berlin, on the topic of *“Tackling the Sexual Exploitation of Children by strengthening the cooperation between NGOs, law enforcement authorities and the private sector – How to improve reporting procedures?”*.

This meeting brought together over 50 international experts from 20 different countries in the areas of law enforcement, NGOs and the private sector. It focused on good practice exchange of existing reporting procedures for child sexual exploitation cases in different countries, the challenges we still face, solutions and recommendations on how the number of reports can be improved. What do the different stakeholders need when it comes to reporting? So far we see only single cases to be convicted with a big amount of efforts from many actors. Although there are some best practice examples on cooperation between the different actors in prosecuting and convicting offenders, reporting mechanisms still need to be implemented on a more systematic basis.

Reporting structures need to be implemented according to national contexts and needs, but with some basic quality features that have been agreed to be: a 24/7, freely, easily accessible and memorable hotline (whether internet or telephone). A universal international reporting procedure is still not existing. Especially knowledge on reporting as well as reporting procedures within and for the tourism industry need to be implemented further. Establishing and improving reporting structures are steps forward to reducing the gap between actual, suspected and convicted cases in the long term. Participants of the meeting were very open and participated actively, forming cooperation on ongoing cases already at the meeting. The report of the meeting can be requested shortly at kreissl@ecpat.de



Father Shay Cullen explaining an ongoing case on child sex tourism



South partners together with German parliamentarians at the ITB, 2010

ECPAT Germany was again present at the International Tourism Fair (ITB) in Berlin this year. Together with the DRV (German Travel Association), who displayed a big banner promoting the Child Protection Code, information on the Code was distributed. Through our cooperation partner

EED/Tourism Watch ECPAT also distributed information on the new E- Learning tool and the topic of sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

First results of the new travel analysis, where ECPAT Germany included a specific question on the negative effects of tourism, were presented at the EED/Tourism Watch event “Fair Play- also in Tourism?”, together with the new finalized ECPAT E- learning course. The E- Learning course is made available in its final English version to signatories of the Child Protection Code from beginning of April 2010 and enables various target groups of the tourism industry to make a first step in implementing Criterion 2 of the Child Protection Code. It has further been presented to international experts at the UNWTO Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism, as well as to a wider public at the ITB through a new brochure for the promotion of the E- learning in and is



Vidya Selvamony from Equations India at the EED event “Fair play- also in Tourism?”

also made available at the course’s site www.childprotection-tourism.org

The course will be also available in the languages, such as German, Estonian, Dutch and Italian from summer 2010. Further language adaptations (such as French or Spanish) are currently being discussed.

The south- partners from India (Equations) and other partners from Russia (Stellit) presented the situation of the fight against the sexual exploitation in tourism in their countries at the EED event. Thanks to the Expert meeting organized by ECPAT Germany before the ITB, several other partners and south partners could hold advocacy meetings with people from the tourism industry on the importance of implementing the Child Protection Code in their respective companies and within the countries of destination as well as origin of sex offenders.

Governmental agencies and tour operators (i.e. India, the Philippines) were visited for individual talks on the expressed wish from tourists for action from the tourism industry, which was again a result of the travel analysis, as well as on the support that can be given to the implementation of the Child Protection Code through ECPAT, i.e. with the new, cost free E- Learning training course.

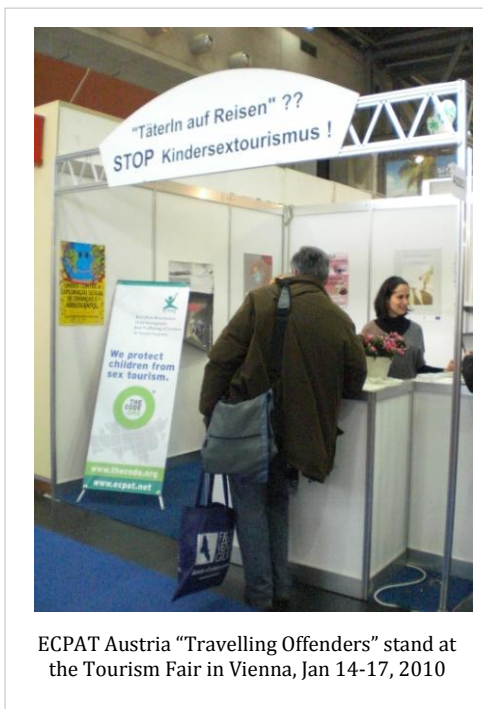
Upcoming Dates & Events

Date	Place	Main organizer, Event, Participation
20 Apr.- 25.April 2010	Berlin	20 th Reisepavillon (International conference on sustainable tourism)
27 Sept. 2010	Düsseldorf	World Tourism Day Press conference and Launch of the tri-lateral campaign between Austria, Germany and Switzerland
October/Nov. 2010	Freiburg	Training of Trainers Workshop
October/Nov. 2010	Sri Lanka	Destination Workshop on the implementation of the Code of Conduct
09-13 March 2011	Berlin	ITB, International Tourism Fair Berlin

10. ECPAT Austria

Astrid Winkler, April 1, 2009

- **Information on prevention and the Child-Protection Code at Tourism Fair in Vienna**



The booth with the provocative slogan „Travelling Offenders?“ grabbed the attention of many visitors of the Tourism Fair in Vienna in January 2010. Especially families and women with children visited the booth, asked questions on what could be done in order to prevent this crime.

ECPAT took the opportunity to present the Child-Protection Code to exhibitors, mainly tour operators and travel agencies. ECPAT-staff and supports distributed flyers and buttons.

A film with statements on Child Sex Tourism of Austrian key-stakeholders was shown on three laptops at the booth. The event was a great opportunity for awareness raising and lobbying of the Child-Protection Code.

This activity was carried out in the framework of the EU-project „Offenders Beware“ which is supported by the EU and for the Austrian activities, by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth. In Austria it is being implemented by ECPAT and Respect (www.respect.at).

- **First International Business-Round Table in Belarus on private sector response to human trafficking**

On 30 March 2010 the first “International Round Table – Business response to Human Trafficking in Belarus” was held. The Business round table was organized by The YOUNG WOMEN’S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA) OF BELARUS which also runs the LA STRADA PROGRAM. 30 participants from private sector, including tourism stakeholders, from governmental authorities, NGOs and international experts discussed good practice and opportunities for private sector response to combat human trafficking.



Experts presented international and regional programs and initiatives such as the UN-Global Compact, UN.GIFT private sector partnership, quality management for AU-PAIR, Microsoft CSR initiatives and safe-migration programs.

TheCode.org Board member, Ms Astrid Winkler, ECPAT AUSTRIA, presented the Child-Protection Code as a tool for the tourism sector. La Strada Ukraine which is already working on implementing the Child-Protection Code and the La Strada-colleagues of Belarus agreed that child sex tourism is a problem in the region.

Incoming tourism in Belarus is still very small due to lack of infrastructure in many regions of the country and difficulties in regard to visa-procedure. However, Belarusian Government is interested to attract more tourists coming to Belarus in the future and took already initiatives on that.

Ms Irina Alkhovka from YWCE announced that follow-up round tables on specific topics such as trafficking and cybercrime or trafficking and sex/child-sex tourism could be organized based on interest from private sector for further cooperation.

11. Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa

Jennifer Seif, March 30, 2010

FTTSA's 2010 plans to implement the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct in SA

FTTSA took part in the Annual General Meeting of the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (www.thecode.org) held on 13 March 2010 in Berlin, Germany. FTTSA has been involved with the Code for a number of years and has secured a mandate nationally and internationally to serve as the "local code representative" (LCR) for South Africa. This means that FTTSA will be responsible for assisting South African tourism and hospitality companies to sign the Code and implement its six criteria. At the 2010 AGM, FTTSA was elected to the Code international Board of Directors, for a three-year term, which underscores FTTSA's commitment to this initiative.

In April, FTTSA - the Local Code Representative (LCR) for South Africa, will launch a new project to institutionalize the Code in South African tourism in partnership with UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and in collaboration with South African tourism stakeholders including leading companies and industry associations. This project will kick-start Code implementation during the run-up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, with the first Code signatories announced in May 2010.

12. AllAfrica.com - South Africa: Ready to tackle human trafficking?

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201003250004.html> by Jabulani Sikhakhane (Johannesburg), March 24, 2010, Inter Press Service

The expected arrival of 350,000 football fans in South Africa for the World Cup in June has provoked fears of increased levels of human trafficking. A new study suggests that one major obstacle to preventing this is the lack of accurate information about the extent of the problem. South Africa is believed to be a hotspot for human trafficking in Africa and the country's National Prosecuting Authority commissioned the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) to conduct a study of the problem as part of its programme to combat trafficking, known as Tsireladzani. Professor Carol Allais, who led the HSRC team, told IPS that the team's work was made difficult by the paucity of data on human trafficking as well as a lack of cooperation by government departments with the research team. Some departments, she said, refused the team access to information even after the NPA had written letters supporting researchers' requests.



A similar study published in 2007 by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) also found reliable data on human trafficking in SA was sketchy because there were no official statistics. Police records subsume data on human trafficking on a range of crimes, including abduction, kidnapping, rape, and assault. The NPA study comes in the context of pressure from the U.S. government as well as non-governmental organisations on South Africa to implement measures to deal with trafficking. South Africa is a signatory to the Palermo Protocol, which requires it to investigate and prosecute trafficking as well as train enforcement officers and assist and protect victims.

From 2005 and 2008, the U.S. State Department cited South Africa for failure to comply fully with the minimum international standards for eliminating human trafficking - including inadequate data collection. The U.S. may withhold non-humanitarian and non-trade related aid to countries that consistently fail to comply with international protocols.

South Africa avoided this 'Tier 2' classification in 2009 based on improved efforts and commitment to make further progress in 2010 in line with its commitment to the Palermo Protocol. NGOs have raised fears of escalated trafficking during the FIFA World Cup in June. The lack of data on human trafficking meant that the researchers could not estimate the number of victims of trafficking, though they still attempted to highlight the major characteristics of the phenomenon. The study, which also included Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe contained few surprises: it said that victims of trafficking were mostly women, girls and boys who were trafficked for a variety of purposes, including prostitution, pornography, as domestic servants, forced labour, and for criminal activity. In the end, Allais said, the research team drew on the database of the IOM whose information is limited to the cases that the inter-governmental body has dealt with. The quality of the data from NGOs was questionable because some of these organisations inflated their numbers as part of their fundraising strategies, Allais said. The research team recommends that South Africa embark on a major awareness and educational campaign, which will include training of people in the justice system to improve their understanding of human trafficking. 'There's a great deal of ignorance across the board,' Allais said. Other recommendations include improved patrolling of the borders; better training for labour inspectors; improved intelligence gathering; and changed visa policy for at-risk groups.

In an interview with South Africa's public broadcaster, Malebo Kotu-Rammopo, the co-ordinator of the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs unit of the NPA, said that a data base of human trafficking cases will only be set up after the passing of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons legislation, which was submitted to parliament last week. Kotu-Rammopo said the report will assist government sharpen its policy on human trafficking, including the design of specific mechanisms to help protect those that are most vulnerable to trafficking.

13. Steps towards preventing child sex tourism in India

Equations: <http://www.equitabletourism.org/stage/readfull.php?AID=640> and Deccan Herald: <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/50484/centres-code-push-wipe-off.html>
Centre's code push to wipe off child sex tourism stain New Delhi, Feb 2, DHNS:



Deeply disturbed and concerned with the widely growing perception that India is emerging as a prime sex tourism destination, the Centre has taken the first big step towards checking an anomaly by putting together a code of conduct for the tourism industry.

What has made the government and the tourism industry sit up and take note of a trend in which foreign tourists visit tourism hubs like Goa, Kerala as well as pilgrimage-rich states like Tamil Nadu and Orissa to seek more than the sun and the culture.

The code of conduct is a virtual admission by the government that the problem exists. The code of conduct, which is likely to become effective on March 8 – observed as International Women's Day – after approval from Tourism Minister Kumari Selja, has come following several recent exposes involving foreigners indulging in child sex, paedophilia and pornography.

The code of conduct for service providers in the tourism sector for "Safe and Honorable Tourism" has been finalised after consulting all stakeholders, including state governments. "It had become an urgent necessity to come up with such a code as India has been identified as a source, transit and destination point in the international circuit, and a large number of children are also trafficked within the country," the sources stressed. Tourism Ministry sources said the government decided to act following warnings from experts that the menace had assumed dangerous proportions not just in tourist havens but also in pilgrimage centres in Tamil Nadu and Orissa.

Humane view

The government is also taking a humane view and would not want condemning impoverished children to the exploitation of sex tourism. "The code aims to protect children and women, culture,

values and the country's heritage to ensure long-term sustainable and responsible tourism in India," the sources said.

Among the organisations involved in evolving the code are PATA India, Save the Children India, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Equitable Tourism Option (EQUATIONS), NEST India Foundation and the National Commission for Women was also consulted in this regard. "Under the code, hotels will have to report any suspicious behaviour by any staff or customer to the local police. If any material pertaining to child pornography is found on the computer of any employee or customer, it will also have to be reported to the local police," the sources said.

Tour operators will have to train personnel to be alert against any possibility of sexual exploitation of children. "Airlines operating within and to India will have to commit themselves to pursue, with every possible means, public awareness about the issue through in-flight magazines, ticket jackets, internet links, and videos on long-haul flights," the sources said.

The code will be applicable to all directors, employees, suppliers, contractors and patrons of hotels, airlines, tour operators and institutions connected with the industry. It will require hotels to even prevent guests from visiting child pornography sites using the Internet, and seeking to contact children for sexual purposes via chat rooms or discussion groups. The code has been necessitated, the sources said, in the light of growth in high-spending foreign tourists and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)'s projection that India will be among the nations having the fastest-growing tourism industry over the next 10-15 years.

The government move follows the 2008 World Congress against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents held in Rio, Brazil, in which countries were asked to draft special laws to prevent children from being used in the tourism industry.

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Making voluntary donations at http://www.thecode.org/index.php?page=1_5



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Friday, June 25, 2010