

# CHILD PROTECTION IS A HUMAN RIGHT.

Jointly accepting responsibility

**DER**

Business  
Travel

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Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that a person cannot be considered an adult until the age of 18.

Virtually all of the world's countries have recognised this convention, which has included an addendum prohibiting child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography since January 2002.

At the same time, young people under the age of 18 have a right to sexual self-determination, including the right to sexual contact. This is completely legal in many countries. However, the sexual exploitation of children and young people is prohibited.

More children than ever before are subject to sexual exploitation and this phenomenon occurs in every part of the world. The overall dimension of sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel has immensely increased while its manifestations have changed dramatically.

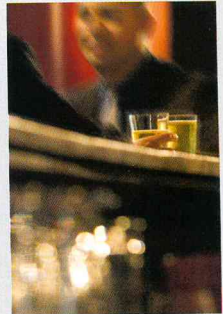
These are the findings of a two-year Global Study on the sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel by ECPAT International, published on 12 May 2016. It further shows that many travelling sex offenders are business

travellers – offering the opportunity to address the problem by strengthening the dialogue with employers in the tourism industry.

Source: <https://www.tourism-watch.de/reisende-taeter>

## Example

Johannes M., 39, is sitting at the bar in his hotel when he overhears two business travellers at the neighbouring table talking about their next trip to Asia. One is giving the other tips for visiting entertainment bars not far from the hotel the company likes to use and enthusiastically describes the "affectionate, low-cost 15-year-old girls".



## WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THIS?

Sexual contact to people under the age of 14 is a criminal act. But there is a grey area for young people between the ages of 14 and 18. Criminal law is applied in such cases if there is a dependency relationship between the people involved, the sexual contact involves financial compensation or payment or force is used.

The majority of people who have sexual contact with children and adolescents unintentionally get into the situation. However, the danger of becoming an occasional perpetrator is especially high outside the familiar social environment without having the awareness of the criminal consequences or consequences for the victims of abuse. Business travellers can be confronted with situations like this at anytime and anywhere.

### Exterritorial principle

German citizens who have committed criminal acts of sexual abuse in other countries can be punished in accordance with German law, regardless of the legal situation in other countries.

So education about the subject is in the interest of the companies and their employees; business travellers represent their companies when being abroad and bear special responsibility for their companies' image. They can take advantage of their special status and their role as opinion leaders to become personally active in advocating the protection of children and young people. Informed travellers who do not look the other way can make a significant contribution.

## HOW WE ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY AS AN EXPERT IN BUSINESS TRAVEL

DER Business Travel is an expert for the organisation of business travel and, as such, sets an example; it is the first travel management company in Germany to sign the worldwide Child Protection Code of Conduct underlining its commitment to take action in order to protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation in tourism and travel.

We would like to provide information to our clients and partners about this subject, to initiate preventive measures and to accept responsibility jointly with them. We pursue this goal by actively engaging in dialogue with customers and partners at trade fairs, in universities, at events and in political association work, and by jointly discussing ways to protect children and adolescents.



# HOW SHOULD COMPANIES ACT RIGHT NOW?

Companies should define a clear statement on child protection and integrate it into guidelines of compliance. However, rather than putting employees under general suspicion the creation of clear structures for prevention and notification procedures is far more important.

## SEVERAL INSTRUMENTS MAY BE USED TO GREAT EFFECT:

- Inclusion of a clause mandating active child protection in the company's code of conduct
- Inclusion of the subject matter in the preparatory training for business trips
- Creation of structures in the company for prevention and troubleshooting (e.g. within the guidelines of compliance)
- Integration of relevant guidelines within the supplier code
- Provide an address for reports in the company (see back side)
- Download the app „Sicher reisen“ (German only) on all relevant devices



**Tip:** Download the app „Sicher reisen“ by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for safe and trouble-free travelling abroad which also features the registration address for suspected cases in connection with sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel.



## EYE WITNESS REPORTS

If you witness something and you want to react, please report any suspicions on  
**[www.reportchildsextourism.eu](http://www.reportchildsextourism.eu)**



**[www.derbusinessstravel.com/  
nachhaltiges-engagement](http://www.derbusinessstravel.com/nachhaltiges-engagement)**

## USEFUL ADDRESSES

ECPAT Deutschland e.V. – Arbeitsgemeinschaft zum Schutz der Kinder  
vor sexueller Ausbeutung  
**[www.ecpat.de](http://www.ecpat.de)**

Deutscher ReiseVerband (DRV)  
**[www.driv.de](http://www.driv.de)**

The Code International – Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct  
**[www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)**

# SEND A CLEAR SIGNAL, INTERNALLY AND TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, FOR YOUR COMPANY'S COMMITMENT.

Sexual abuse of children and young people is a worldwide problem which is not limited to certain regions of the globe; no country or travel area is exempt from this scourge. Business travellers may encounter this phenomenon anywhere, any time as well.

**Accept responsibility for yourself and your employees as well as for the weaker members of society. This flyer has been prepared to help you.**



## Would you like to contact us?

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