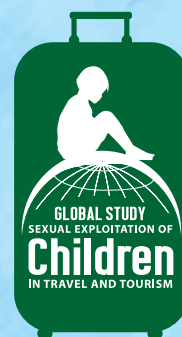


ALL ABOARD!

Stop Sexual
Exploitation of
Children in Travel
and Tourism

Youth-friendly summary





ECPAT International is a global network of civil society organisations working together to end child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. We aim to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.



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Written by: Cheryl Perera

Overall project coordination by: Mariana Yevsyukova

Design by: QUO Bangkok

Illustrated by: Vicky Yang

Picture editing in the “Get inspired [...]” chapter: Prisma Labs, inc.

Additional credits: Junita Upadhyay, Mark Capaldi, Dorine van der Keur, Ommara Ahmed, Florida (Mae) F. Radam, Manida (Bey) Naebklang, Lauren Holdup, children and youth consultative groups-members of the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC) in Bangladesh (ACD), Colombia (Fundación Renacer), Dominican Republic (MAIS), Indonesia (KOMPAK), Peru (Peruvian Network against CSEC - CHS Alternativo and REDES- Huancayo), Philippines (ECPAT Youth and Children Advocates), Thailand (ECPAT Foundation), Ukraine (All-Ukrainian Network against CSEC) and ECPAT Network member's partner in Pakistan (Protection and Help of Children Against Abuse and Neglect) and Anti-Trafficking and Child Abuse Center (ATCC) Thailand.

Published by:

ECPAT International

328/1 Phayathai Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

Tel: +66 2 215 3388, Fax: +66 2 215 8272

Email: info@ecpat.net

Website: www.ecpat.org

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facebook.com/ecpat



twitter.com/ECPAT



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FOREWORD

Have you ever taken a flight? Boarded a ship? Travelled by train or bus to another city? If you have, then you're one of the millions of people who criss-cross our skies, sail our waters, and zip back and forth on our roads each day. And it's no wonder. In our increasingly interconnected world, travel is cheaper than ever, countries are competing with each other to attract tourism dollars, and with the widespread use of the Internet, even some of the most distant places on our planet are now within reach! No doubt, travel and tourism has become both accessible and affordable for

many. But with huge numbers of people on the move and taking advantage of the world getting smaller, there is a bigger risk that some – at least – will take the opportunity to sexually exploit vulnerable children on their travels.

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In the 20 years since the First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm, Sweden, the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) has completely transformed and continues to change and grow. In fact, it's even managed to spread across the globe and out-pace every attempt to fight it at the international and national levels. This publication – based on the findings of the ECPAT International-initiated **Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism** (SECTT) – has been created for you – a passionate young person – to help grasp these changes and why they've happened, and learn about what you can do to stop it. The Global Study took place from 2014 to 2016 with 67 partners and experts involved. The report and the findings were published in May 2016 and you can find the report and all partner and expert contributions on www.globalstudysectt.org. The findings of the Global Study have shocked the world and led to a lot of public and media attention.

The voices of young people, including survivors; opinions of experts; and facts and figures from every region of the world have informed this study, painting the fullest and most up-to-date picture that we have on SECTT. Our hope is that in diving through the next pages, you'll get the facts on the changing face of SECTT and get inspired by the ideas for action in this publication, as well as the examples of young people from every corner of the planet who have mobilized, marched, lobbied, and fundraised in their schools and communities to free themselves and their peers from SECTT. From young people to national governments, from communities to the travel and tourism industry itself, all of us have an important and unique role to play. But first, we'll need to work together if we ever hope to make this heinous crime against children, history. Now let's get started!

Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid

Chair High-Level Taskforce to End Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism

THIS PUBLICATION

Who is it for?

Maybe you've seen a case of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) in the news or personally know a victim of this crime. Maybe you've watched a presentation on the topic; you've been volunteering for a children's rights organisation; or you've never heard of this crime before, but you're curious to learn. Wherever you stand, if you're a young person who dares to dream of a world where all children are safe and protected from sexual exploitation – no matter where they are or what their backgrounds may be – then this publication is for you.

...And how can I use it?

We know that SECTT is a complex issue. We created this publication to break it down for you, as well as guide you to exciting actions that you can take with your friends or family, in your community, or school to strengthen the movement against this crime. So if you're new to the topic of SECTT, don't worry! We encourage you to start from the beginning and work your way through to the finish. If you've got some knowledge under your belt, then check out pages 42-43 to get a handle on how much you already know and what you need to know. Then dip in at different sections to brush up on your knowledge before flipping to page 47 to find out how you can take action.

We know that this issue can be depressing. We know that it can be frightening, too. But the trick is to never lose hope, and to never stop dreaming of what you can change. Positive action is being taken all over the world, and more and more children are being prevented and protected from sexual exploitation. A lot of this action is being initiated by young people like you, and that's why we've included some of their stories of change. We hope that they'll inspire and challenge you.

Let's get started!

Mariana Yevsyukova

ECPAT International Global Coordinator
for Children's Participation

Cheryl Perera

Author of this Publication, Founder and President
of OneChild Network & Support Inc.

TOURISM

EXPLOITATION

CSEC

?

CODE



UNDERSTANDING THE WORDING

Before we get down to the details on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT), we thought that we should explain a few terms that you're bound to see over the next few pages. If you're eager to start reading right away, feel free to skip this section and head directly to page 10. If you come across a word **in bold** and don't know the meaning, you can look it up here.

Advocacy:

Influencing or persuading a person with power to support your cause.

Anonymity:

Hidden name or identity.

Child:

A person who is under 18 years of age (this definition is used by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Child Marriage:

A harmful practice in many societies that forces children to marry adults or other children. A form of child marriage, temporary child marriage refers to another harmful cultural practice in which a girl is married off for a few hours to a few months for sex or to work, often as domestic servants. These marriages are arranged by parents or another person, in exchange for payment.

Child Sexual Abuse Materials:

Text, pictures, sounds, or videos of a child engaged in sexual activities; images of the sexual parts of a child; or images of a fake child that looks like a real one (e.g. images generated by computer programme).

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA):

Using a child in sexual activity for the abuser's benefit. The abuser can be an adult or another child, usually older.

Child Trafficking:

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, and/or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. Children are trafficked for many reasons including illegal or dangerous work, begging on the streets, participation in armed conflict, or to have sex with people for money, gifts, or favours.

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (the Code):

An initiative driven by the travel and tourism industry to help the industry prevent the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

Consent (to sexual activity):

Happens when someone agrees, gives permission, or says “yes” to sexual activity with another person. Children never consent to being sexually exploited or abused.

Corruption:

Happens when powerful people such as government officials or members of law enforcement abuse their power to get some kind of benefit.

Decision-Maker:

A person – usually at a high level in an organisation – who decides things and has the power to make change.

Discrimination:

To treat a person or group of people in a different way, usually worse, based on a variety of grounds. Children can be discriminated based on age, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, migration status, disability, or for being victims of sexual exploitation.

Exploitation:

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Happens when someone unfairly takes advantage of another person, and benefits from it through cash, gifts, favours or services.

Extraterritorial Legislation:

Laws that make it possible for one country to punish its own citizens for crimes that they’ve committed in another country.

Global Study:

Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism is a two-year collaboration project of 67 partners from the private sector, academia, civil society, law enforcement agencies, UN and human rights entities. The Study includes a Global Report, 9 Regional Reports, 15 Country Studies, 42 Expert Papers, this Youth Summary and an animation.

Grooming:

Happens when a person befriends, encourages, or tricks a child to convince him/her to participate in a sexual act or relationship with the groomer or another person.

Impunity:

Freedom from punishment or harm, for committing a crime.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs):

Products that collect, store, retrieve, manipulate, transmit, or receive information in digital form. These technologies include cell phones, webcams, computers, network hardware and software (apps, social media applications) etc.

Internet:

A global network of (connected) computers that carry a vast range of information resources, services and applications that allows people to communicate with each other and to exchange online messages, electronic mail, (text) files, images and many other types of information among devices.

Law Enforcement:

Police, but can also include prosecution agencies, courts and prisons.

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO):

An organisation that isn't part of a government or a for-profit business. Instead, they're non-profit, and set up by ordinary citizens at a local, national, regional or international level. Some are organised around specific issues, like children's rights, environment, or health, and perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions; bring the concerns of citizens to governments; or advocate and monitor policies. ECPAT International is an example of an international NGO.

Pimp:

A person who sells another person for sexual activity, and collects a payment for it.

Prosecute:

The state accusing a person of a crime before the court. The judge or jury must then make the decision.

Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEC):

Sexual abuse of a child through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life, and/or money.

Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism – (SECTT):

Acts of sexual exploitation of children embedded in the context of travel, tourism, or both.

Travel and Tourism Industry:

Businesses that offer travel and tourism-related products such as airlines, hotels, resorts, travel agencies, restaurants, souvenir shops etc.

Virgin:

A person who has never had sexual intercourse.

Volun-tourism:

A form of tourism in which travellers participate in voluntary work, usually for an organization or a good cause.

WHAT IS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM AND WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TODAY?

The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) is a serious crime, and a shocking violation of the rights of the child.

It happens when a person, either male or female, engages in a sexual act with a **child** – often in exchange for cash, food, gifts, trips or other things – while they're travelling within their own country, or internationally. We call them travelling child sex offenders (TCSOs), and they can be divided into two groups. First, there are preferential offenders who deliberately travel to seek out children for sex. Second, there are situational offenders who aren't travelling to **sexually exploit** a child, but if an opportunity presents itself while they're travelling, they'll take it. Both kinds of offenders use the facilities of the **travel and tourism industry** such as flights, hotels, tour guides and transport, to get access to, and sexually exploit children.

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...But wait! Why aren't we using the term 'child sex tourism' anymore?

Good point! You may have heard of the term 'child sex tourism' used to describe this act, but we think this term is too restrictive and outdated.

Most people now agree on the term sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism because it's broader and includes everyone who travels. After all, not every person on the move is a tourist. Today, many are business people and migrant workers, foreigners who live abroad, and even volunteers. These people can also hurt children, and when they sexually abuse a child on their travels, we call them travelling child sex offenders.

From the **Global Study**, we now know that children are more vulnerable than ever and pathways for offenders to abuse children have increased. Travel and tourism have doubled in the past twenty years, and there are more people on the move than ever before. Companies are extending their business operations to other countries and regions prompting people to travel for work, and armed conflicts and natural disasters are displacing families and children from their homes. **Information and communication technologies (ICTs)** have also increased the vulnerability of children to SECTT.

Offenders come into contact with vulnerable children by approaching them directly, or with the help of intermediaries. These are people who connect vulnerable children with offenders. They may be everyone from **pimps** to taxi drivers, but what they all have in common is that they're forcing or encouraging children to be sexually abused so that the children feel they can get some benefit, usually, cash.

Children are the most powerless people in every society and in many parts of the world, they're treated like property or items to be bought and sold. The money, status, and authority that offenders and intermediaries have, only worsen this power imbalance, and children's vulnerability. For example, an offender has the opportunity to sexually exploit a child because s/he is wealthy enough to cover the cost of intermediaries and sexual services from children and even bribes to keep children and witnesses from reporting, and the police from investigating. Intermediaries too, have the power of money and the power of physical strength on their side. They can beat, force, and bully or manipulate children into sexual acts. Government officials, police, and soldiers also have the power of authority – they can take advantage of children, without fear of punishment.

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Travel gives offenders the safety of **anonymity** and distance from their victims. Since they're away from home, they believe their activities will be hidden or remain a secret. They let go of their moral values when travelling. Many of them justify their actions by arguing that **child sexual abuse and exploitation** are acceptable in the child's culture and that they're doing nothing wrong. Others argue that the money and gifts they're giving to a child cancels out any wrongdoing because they're supposedly "helping" the children and their families.

We can say with confidence that SECTT is a crime that is fuelled by a toxic mix of power, anonymity, and **impunity**. In many countries, laws aren't always SECTT-specific, and police forces often don't know how to **prosecute** offenders. Many police forces are overwhelmed and don't have enough resources to investigate, or they may suffer from **corruption** which may even help offenders avoid punishment. Often crimes of SECTT never get reported, because victims feel ashamed, or because they fear that offenders – with all the power they have – will come after them.

SECTT is a crime, and therefore, offenders, intermediaries, and corrupted officials have an interest in keeping it secretive and hidden. Because of this, not enough is known about what's happening and where; about the victims and perpetrators; and what works to stop it.

WHERE IS IT HAPPENING?

Everywhere. The Global Study confirmed it's happening all over the world. Twenty years ago, we might have been able to tell you the names of the countries where offenders come from and where they go in order to sexually exploit children. But today, things aren't so clear. SECTT nowadays is much more complex, and the following regional snapshots of this problem tell us that it can be found in both the world's richest and poorest countries. In short, no region is untouched by this crime and no country is immune. Which region do YOU come from?

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**EUROPE AND
CENTRAL ASIA**



EAST ASIA



**MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH
AFRICA (MENA)**



**SOUTH
ASIA**



**SOUTHEAST
ASIA**

**SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA**



**THE
PACIFIC**



NORTH AMERICA

Together, Canada and USA form North America.

‘Truck-Stop Prostitution’

“I was taken to truck stops. People saw me. Granted, we looked like a father/daughter, we looked like a family, but at the same time the very fact that I was 4, 5, 6 years old at a truck stop, in the middle of the night, on a school night – that really could raise some flags.”

– Kate, U.S.

Truck stops are roadside businesses, that offer fuel, parking, accommodation, food, and other services to truckers and travellers who spend long periods of time on the road. While these are all needed services, girls and boys have been found being pimped to truckers at these stops.

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North American travellers have been known to sexually exploit children abroad, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. They’ve abused positions as volunteers, teachers, or humanitarian aid workers, and victimized children in orphanages in countries as diverse as Cambodia, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, and Nepal.

But it’s not just children from other countries who are at risk. Minority populations facing **discrimination** and poverty such as Native Americans within USA and Aborigines within Canada are also extremely vulnerable. For example, in some Canadian cities, 90% of sexually exploited children on the street were Aboriginal. Runaway children are also vulnerable. In the city of Las Vegas, for instance, homeless children – mostly African-American – have been recruited for sexual purposes at bus stations or in shopping malls.

The involvement of domestic travellers is a new and important focus area. They include the business traveller attending meetings in another city; truckers and other travellers; oilfield workers who’ve been assigned to a location far away from home; and even the person attending a major sporting event.

Governments, **NGOs**, and travel and tourism companies have come together to fight SECTT. For example, in USA, the government trains airline staff who are on the front lines to recognize signs of SECTT, and ECPAT USA played a key role in influencing 40 travel and tourism companies to sign **The Code for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (the Code)**. In Canada, key players in the transportation industry such as airlines, have signed the Code and educated the public about SECTT.



LATIN AMERICA

This region stretches across two continents and 20 countries, from Ecuador to the west, Mexico to the north, Chile to the south, and Brazil to the east.

Latin America depends heavily on the money generated by travel and tourism. Sometimes, travel and tourism hotspots are developed near poor communities whose land is often taken, pushing poor families to take low-paying work in the tourism sector. This increases children's exposure to offenders and intermediaries, and also discourages children and their families from reporting offenses because they're scared of losing their jobs.

Poverty, lack of jobs, internal conflict, and migration weaken families and many children run away from home. High levels of violence, the availability of drugs and guns, and the strong presence of organized crime networks and gangs who can **traffic children** to tourist areas, also heighten their risk. ICTs and **Internet** are used by offenders and intermediaries to meet children and to create and distribute **child sexual abuse materials**.

'Unwritten Rules'

"Children are not toys to have during the moments of pleasure that you seek."

- Young person, Iquitos Network of Children and Adolescents (Rednna Iquitos), Peru

Wrong or misguided opinions, especially on gender, increase children's risk of being exploited. For example, some people believe that males are entitled to sex; while females should be passive objects of male sexual desire. Also, families may reject homosexual and transgendered children, driving them to the streets where they can be targeted by tourists, travellers, and criminal networks.

Offenders in this region tend to be younger. For instance, in Brazil, a large number are young professional travellers and tourists. Due to underreporting, corruption, impunity, and a lack of proper responses; offenders continue to exploit children.

Although SECTT hasn't been placed on the political agenda, many good actions have been taken to fight SECTT in the region through different initiatives, especially in the area of prevention.



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

This region covers 54 countries, from Spain to the west, Finland to the north, Turkey to the south, and Russia in the east.

An Easy Escape...

Although most countries have extraterritorial legislation, applying these laws are hampered by problems such as collecting evidence from far-away locations where the science of analyzing evidence isn't developed enough; or the requirement that SECTT must be a crime in both the offender's home country and in the destination country. This has led to impunity for many offenders.

All European countries are affected by SECTT, but how badly they are affected, has changed over time. Currently, Russia and Turkey are emerging as sending countries, while Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine have become hotspots for SECTT. Southern European countries such as Portugal and Spain are also becoming preferred destinations, and in areas experiencing tourism growth such as the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Balkans, children are increasingly at risk. Europeans also continue to fuel the demand in old and new SECTT hotspots around the world, particularly South and East Asia, the Americas, and Africa.

European business travellers and foreigners living in another country for the short-term or long-term, together with tourists, make up an important source of demand for SECTT; while children facing discrimination such as Roma children, as well as children who aren't in school are at the greatest risk.

Although there isn't a lot of information and data available on boys who are victims of SECTT, we know that boys also suffer. For example, in the Czech Republic, research found that offenders tend to target boys more, and in Ukraine, more and more boys are getting involved in prostitution. While some offenders continue to contact vulnerable children on the streets, most approach them in more hidden places such as brothels, clubs, hotels, guesthouses, and through the Internet.



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

This region expands across 20 countries, from Morocco to the west, Syria to the north, Sudan to the south, and Iran to the east.

No MENA country tracks SECTT offenses, but we know that certain countries are popular destinations for offenders from richer countries. For example, rich men from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries have been involved in child sex offences in Egypt, particularly through **temporary child marriages**. This is a harmful cultural practice in which a girl is married off for a few hours to a few months for sex or to work, often as domestic servants. These marriages are often arranged by the parents or another person, in exchange for payment. **Child marriage** is a practice that is legal under Islamic law, but is also becoming a tourist attraction in the region where men marry young girls, exploit them, and then return back to their country of origin, or take the girl with them. Young girls, particularly **virgins** are sold for high prices. This may be because of cultural views that value chastity and purity, and/or the fear of getting infected with HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Children in Crises

War, migration, and refugee crises in the region have resulted in millions of children and their families being displaced to military bases and camps, refugee and migration detention centres, and on the streets. Left without safe shelter and other basic needs, and often separated from their parents or guardians, these children are at risk of being exploited by security forces and strangers.

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Women and girls have little social status within the region, and combined with other factors such as poverty and a lack of opportunities for youth, they can easily fall prey to SECTT.

Although many MENA countries have laws against the sexual exploitation of children, some still continue to criminalize victims of sexual exploitation. Others provide services such as social, legal, medical, and psychological help for victims. The private sector has done very little to address SECTT.



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

There are 46 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, from Ghana to the west, Niger to the north, South Africa to the south and Kenya to the east.

Plugged In

Dating sites, the social networking apps WhatsApp and Instagram, along with social media platforms like Facebook have created new pathways for offenders to recruit children. They allow intermediaries to create networks of national and foreign travelers, contact potential victims, or advertise children, while at the same time, keeping their own identity and location hidden. They also allow offenders and their victims to communicate from a distance, groom their victims, and organize meetings before they arrive. Some children may even continue to be virtually exploited after the offender has left the city or country, by using webcams and online video and conferencing technologies like Skype or Google Hangouts.

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SECTT is quickly changing in the region, and it's on the rise. Offenders tend to travel to Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and many more countries.

The travel and tourism industry in the region is transforming as travel has tripled in the past two decades and because new online, unregulated modes of accommodation and transportation have emerged. AirBnB and SnapCabb are increasing children's vulnerability because they don't have any child protection standards. **Volun-tourism** in the region is also popular, but leaves children vulnerable to abuse by visitors. With large groups of mostly single men coming over as workers and contractors, posing risks to children. Other pathways to SECTT include the availability of children in the same places where adults sell sex; and exposure to armed forces, peacekeeping troops, and camp personnel.

Girls are especially vulnerable because of cultural and religious customs such as child marriage or practices that prevent girls from inheriting land when their parents die, leaving them with no home or support.

Enforcement of national laws are poor. Corruption has allowed offenders to act with impunity, and victims are scared to report cases or believe that they're responsible for what happened. Services for child victims are rare, but some steps have been taken in the right direction such as One-Stop Centres in a few countries which offer medical, counselling and legal services. Fair Trade Tourism in South Africa is also creating criteria to protect children from exploitation and who are involved in volunteer programs. The Code has been adopted by 24 private businesses.

MASSAGE PARADISE

FOOT MASSAGE
HEAD SHOULDER BACK
FULL BODY
SPECIAL MASSAGE



SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka form this region.

South Asia hosts about half of the world's poor. Poverty and a lack of jobs and education are some of the key factors that make children vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Domestic and regional travellers outnumber international ones and social norms, such as gender discrimination, allow SECTT to flourish. Vulnerable boys tend to be involved in street-based sexual exploitation, while girls tend to be victimised in brothels and other sex venues. Once a girl is abused, she is labelled as “spoiled” or “ruined”, creating a pathway that can lead to a life of sexual exploitation.

Sri Lanka has long suffered from SECTT, particularly by foreign tourists, and evidence suggests that SECTT in countries such as India and Nepal is on the rise. Research in Goa, India, has shown that whilst the majority of demand comes from local men and migrant workers, both situational and preferential foreign offenders are prominent. Offenders aren't always men. There have been women, too.

SECTT is helped by an expanding travel and tourism industry, where hotels, guesthouses, rented apartments, houseboats, bars, nightclubs, and massage parlours are used by offenders.

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Disagreement on the definition of SECTT, weak laws, and failure to come together and target key issues around SECTT, leave most offenders without fear of punishment, and victims without rehabilitation and reintegration services.

Boys vs. Girls

Both boys and girls are vulnerable to SECTT. Boys tend to have more freedom to be out of the home, and are vulnerable to prostitution on the streets or in other public places such as beaches, parks, entertainment districts, and transit hubs. On the other hand, girls tend to get trafficked or sold to brothels and entertainment venues. It's been found that while some parents sell their daughters to traffickers, in the case of boys, parents may have approved, or even encouraged their sons' involvement in SECTT, in exchange for gifts and support from foreigners.

“Don't exploit the children of our nation. They are innocent. Respect every child like you would respect your own child”

– Young person, PAHCHAAN, Pakistan



SOUTHEAST ASIA

This region expands across 11 countries with the Indonesian island of Sumatra to the west, Myanmar to the north, Timor-Leste to the south, and the Indonesian province of West Papua to the east.

This region has long attracted offenders, who are mainly men. Traditional destination countries such as Thailand and the Philippines continue to receive foreign offenders, mostly from the Asian region, while countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam are becoming popular destinations. Lao PDR, Myanmar and Timor-Leste are also emerging destinations for SECTT, but on a smaller scale.

The Rise of the Business Traveler

In the globalized world of today, more and more businesses are moving their operations to Southeast Asia, creating a demand for business travel to the region. Governments are eager to accept business travelers because they bring new skills, encourage trade, create new jobs, and spend in the local economy. These people often have money and power, and travel for the short-term, while others move to Southeast Asian cities, and live there for the long-term as expats. For instance, in a review of 288 cases involving child sex offenders in Cambodia between 2003 and 2013 conducted by the Cambodian NGO Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE), it was found that 71% were Cambodian businessmen or short or long-term residents.

“Please be aware of any signs of child sexual exploitation near you. We need your help.”

– Young person, KOMPAK, Indonesia

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Children from ethnic minorities such as the hill tribe communities of Northern Thailand, street children, migrant children, children who remain home when their parents migrate, refugee and internally displaced children, children who don't have a nationality, and indigenous children suffer the greatest risk of SECTT in the region. Boys are also highly vulnerable to SECTT, but sadly, their experiences aren't given the attention that they deserve.

Both foreign and national offenders access children at bars, karaoke venues, beer gardens, massage parlours, brothels, and in special zones near national borders, major seaports, and international airports where similar entertainment venues have popped up. They're reached by offenders and intermediaries in public places such as beaches or marketplaces, or online.

Another pathway to exploitation that appears to be on the rise is through jobs and volun-tourism in schools, shelters or orphanages.

Across the region, great efforts have been made to combat SECTT in recent years, but national governments have been uneven in their commitment and ability to fight SECTT. For instance, only the Philippines has SECTT-specific laws. In some cases, NGOs have been the greatest force behind anti-SECTT activities.



THE PACIFIC

This region stretches across Australia and New Zealand, as well as 14 small Pacific island countries (PICs) from Palau to the west, the Marshall Islands to the north, Tonga to the south, and the Cook Islands to the east.

Harmful Traditional and Cultural Beliefs

In Pacific societies, attitudes, beliefs, and interests favour men. For instance, in the Solomon Islands, boys/ peers recruit girls to engage in sex with loggers, and any refusal to cooperate is seen as a challenge to male authority and can lead to isolation from the peer group. Children in these societies also have low status and are powerless. Since sexual matters and rape aren't supposed to be talked about openly, children may not know how to protect themselves from abusers or speak up if they've been exploited.

Little information is available on SECTT in the Pacific, because it's difficult and costly to collect information from thousands of small islands across a large ocean. But what we do know is that many Australians have been identified as offenders travelling to Southeast Asia and the PICs, often favouring Indonesia and the Philippines to sexually exploit children.

SECTT in the PICs seem to be linked to economic activities such as mining, logging, and fishing. For example, young girls have been forced into prostitution by migrant workers employed in the logging industry in the Solomon Islands, and by overseas contract workers and seamen in the Marshall Islands. In islands where tourism is on the rise, such as Fiji, foreign tourists, businessmen, and crew on foreign fishing boats have been thought to participate in the prostitution of Fijian children, helped by family members and taxi drivers.

There's a general acceptance of trading sex for money or goods, and children engage in transactional sex because they're poor, they're being pressured by their peers, or because they want consumer goods. It's also common in the region for both boys and girls to be sold through improper marriages and informal adoption for a variety of purposes, including sexual purposes.

The Australian government and NGOs have played an important role in combating SECTT. For example, the Australian police offer training to overseas officers, and NGOs have raised awareness. Efforts in New Zealand have been less, and agencies haven't been working together as travel and tourism agencies typically aren't willing to report suspicions about SECTT. PICs haven't made many efforts to fight SECTT.



EAST ASIA

This region includes China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan.

The 'Virgin Hunter'

SECTT in the region is driven, in part, by the desire for virgins. For instance, some East Asian men believe that having sex with a child, especially a virgin, can make them feel youthful again or can bring good luck in business. Believing these irresponsible cultural myths, they've been known to search for virgins in casinos or other entertainment venues, or get approached by intermediaries who arrange encounters with virgins.

Men from China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, travelling both within East Asia, and to Southeast Asia appear to be the main drivers of SECTT in this region. China and Mongolia are visited by both international and domestic offenders.

Many offenders are business travellers who come from countries where it's customary to take part in social activities with colleagues after business hours in the hopes of building friendships and business relationships. These "hang-outs" often include alcohol and the purchase of commercial sex and are held in places such as restaurants, beer gardens, karaoke bars, and massage parlors where children may be found.

Because offenders from Japan and South Korea are thought to be wealthier, young girls from some of the poorer Asian countries prefer them because of the tips they get and the prestige of being with a rich foreigner.

Laws, definitions of who is a child and what is 'consent' to sexual activity are very different across East Asia, which makes it difficult to work together to bring offenders to justice. One solution is to create a list of child sex offenders that can be accessed globally by all officials, and can alert immigration officials if an offender tries to cross borders.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS AND WHAT MAKES THEM VULNERABLE TO SECTT?



“Child abuse is the death of society.”

– Young person, PACHAAN, Pakistan

32 There is no typical victim

Child victims have no single story, and come from all of life experiences. For a long time now, we’ve known that girls and children living in poverty are victims; but boys, children from minority groups, very young children, and even children from wealthy families have also fallen prey.

All children are vulnerable to some extent, but some pressures and circumstances when combined together with the global race for tourism income, the large-scale movement of people for work, and the widespread use of ICTs, increase children’s risk.

These are the five main factors:

Poverty

It’s one of the strongest factors. Parents have been forced to sell their children to traffickers to make money believing that their child will be cared for, receive an education, or have a job. But children who migrate alone to find work and help their families usually don’t have any identity papers, the protection of parents, or any access to social services, making them prime targets for exploiters. Sometimes children and families become homeless because of events such as natural disasters or armed conflict. Sometimes separated from their families or left orphaned, they fall prey to soldiers, members of armed groups, peacekeepers, or predators posing as humanitarian aid workers.

Living on the street

Some children find themselves on the street because their parents have kicked them out, while others have run away because of child sexual abuse or neglect in the home. Others are forced onto the streets to work – either begging or doing small jobs to support their families or themselves – or because their parents have died and don't have a support system. They become targets for individual predators, traffickers, or intermediaries who promise them a meal, a bath, drugs, cash, or gifts in exchange for sex. Without care or protection, they sometimes become attached to and dependent on these individuals who then involve them in sexual exploitation.

Discrimination and Social Exclusion

Some children are discriminated against based on their race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, migration status, disability, or even for being victims of sexual exploitation. Sometimes their own family or community may discriminate against them. This can lead to social exclusion, that is, they can get rejected by the larger society, making them unable to access social services, such as education. Unless they have strong family ties, these children face a hostile world and by being entirely unprotected, face a grave risk of SECTT.

Cultural Norms and Practices on Gender and Sexuality

Some cultures treat girls and boys very differently. For example, in some cultures, girls are thought to be weak and passive and should be kept at home; while boys are seen as strong and given the freedom to be away from the home. With this freedom of movement, boys can become vulnerable to predators. Girls who refuse practices such as child marriage are left with few options but to run away, and with no means of support and no where safe to go, they can easily become prey.

Social and peer pressure

When children have little guidance from their parents, suffer neglect at home, or aren't in school, they can become easily influenced by their friends which puts them at risk. When they look around them and start to compare their situation with others, such as their peers, they can start to feel like they're missing out on something. These feelings are made worse by the messages young people are receiving that having the latest clothes and gadgets will increase their social status and acceptance. Coupled with the increasing sexualisation of children, some children are influenced to participate in sexual activity with individuals – likely older – and who have more money.



WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF SECTT ON THE CHILD?

“There was a time in my life that I wanted to die. It was like a nightmare. I don’t want to speak to anyone. I don’t like to go to school. I got infected with a sexually transmitted disease. I felt like everything else was taken from me.”

– Child survivor, ECPAT-Philippines.

Severe physical, emotional, and psychological effects last a lifetime.

The victims of SECTT often suffer beatings and rape, and some get infected with STDs such as HIV. Girls may also become pregnant when they're still children themselves.

They also feel ashamed and guilty. Some even believe that they don't deserve rescue, or don't want to trust other people. They can become depressed and anxious, and some turn to drugs to deal with their bad feelings. Some don't want to see themselves as victims believing that they're somehow in control of their situation, or they see it as normal or the best option for their situation.

SECTT also breaks up families and local cultures, and it ruins the future of entire communities. Even when victims try to live normal lives, get the justice they deserve, or go to school, they often suffer from the knowledge that other people know that they were involved in the sex trade, and they're shunned or even harassed by the people who are supposed to protect them: their families, communities, police and judges. What's more is that there aren't enough rescue, rehabilitation, and recovery services programs around the world to serve victims.

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In Real Life: A Story from the U.S.A.

"K" is 12 years old and lives close to route 80 in Pennsylvania, one of the busiest interstate highways in the U.S. When she was 4, "T", a much older boy that her family knew, sexually abused her for the first time. Sometimes, she would cry and try to run away when he was around, but a family member would drag her back, worrying that the neighbours would wonder what all the noise was about.

When "K" was 5 year old, "T" sold her to his friends to feed his drug addiction. His friends were truckers. "T" gives "K" drugs and alcohol and sells her at a truck stop. Every night, she knocks on the doors of the trucks that line up, climbs in with the drivers, and then gives the money to "T". Sometimes, he brings truckers to their house and they rape her in the backyard. They make her feel good about herself when they tell her that she is pretty, and that in the future she might even be a singer.

"T" says different things to "K". Sometimes he seems like he is being nice to her when he tells her that he loves her. He calls her his 'special little girl'. Other times, he tells her that she is worthless.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

“Welcome to all tourists who are visiting us. And what about you? If you are here in the country with good intentions, we are happy. But if you are here with bad intentions, you are a despicable person in our eyes.”

– Young person, ECPAT Foundation, Thailand

There's no typical offender

They can't be placed into neat categories. That's because they're a diverse group and constantly changing. Some are preferential offenders or paedophiles who have an illness that makes them prefer sex with children who've just reached puberty, or not quite yet. But most are situational offenders. They may be married or single, young, or old. They can be rich, or just a little bit better off than their victims. Most are men, but some can be women, and a few may even be adolescents.

What we can say for certain are two things: most offenders are situational, come from the same country or region, and are travelling for work. And regardless of who they are, all offenders have more opportunities than ever to exploit children due to corruption and the confidence that they won't get caught.

Don't forget intermediaries and facilitators!

These people form an important part of the puzzle that creates SECTT. They're traffickers, pimps, criminal networks, brothel owners, sex tour operators, and modelling agencies. Others are fathers or husbands of child brides, employers of child workers, corrupt police and government officials, and networks of travelling offenders. Some are even hotel staff, taxi drivers, tourist guides, street vendors, and community vendors. They may not think they're exploiters or even know that they're committing a crime, but they still help to drive SECTT. The varied characteristics and motivations of offenders mean that we can't use the same tactics to fight SECTT, on everyone. What we need are actions that target offenders at every stage of the "process" of SECTT, from the people who make it convenient, to the people who perpetuate it.

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In Real Life: A Story from Thailand

"A" left school and returned to help his family. He would often sneak away and travel with his friends. One day, he met "M", a transgendered woman, who invited him to live with her and 30 other children. There, he was raped by six foreigners.

When "A" was in Pattaya, he met a man named "B" who invited him to take photos with a foreigner. "A" didn't know they would be pornographic, but when he met the foreigner at his hotel, they took nude photos, and he was raped. "A" was given 420 baht (\$12), but 100 (\$3) was taken by "B" as a part of his fee.



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

“Don’t wait! Act and do what you can in order to help. Unify in stopping this problem. We need you because change starts with you and there’s no other time to start but now.”

– Member of ECPAT Youth and Children Advocates (EYCA), Philippines

Protecting children from SECTT is every person’s responsibility, but both experts and children agree that these organizations and people can have the greatest impact in fighting SECTT if they work together:

National Governments

The greatest responsibility to protect children from SECTT falls on national governments. As an urgent first step, governments need to collect information on SECTT to help us understand the depth of this crime in their countries. They must create very strong laws to punish all offenders, including domestic travellers and intermediaries, and they need to ensure that the police have what they need to enforce these laws. They must make sure that children and others have ways of reporting SECTT, without fear.

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When governments make plans to develop the travel and tourism industry in their countries, they need to assess what impact it will have on local children and communities. They need to create strict child protection rules and guidelines for the tourism industry, as well as for the selection of people who work closely with children, for example, in schools, orphanages, and during humanitarian emergencies. They must make sure that prevention programs for at-risk children and rehabilitation and reintegration programs are available for child victims.

Action: Ensuring Strong and Enforced Laws

Colombia has made SECTT a crime in the Penal Code. Various laws also criminalize travel and tourism companies who fail to prevent SECTT, and punishes them with fines and by suspending their national tourism registration. The law also requires that companies sign the Code if they want to receive their operating licence.

Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement agencies need to prioritize SECTT, and officers should not be tempted by corruption and tolerance for SECTT. They need to use child-friendly methods when dealing with child victims and witnesses. They must also exchange information on offenders and cooperate with police officers from other regions and countries.

Action: Preventing Re-Offending

Green Notice is INTERPOL's main tool for dealing with travelling sex offenders. A Green Notice is issued to provide warnings and information about people who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries. It can be an effective way to prevent sex offenders from crossing borders.

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Companies

Large, multi-national companies as well as medium-size and small businesses such as guesthouses, “zero-star” hotels and taxi drivers need to make greater efforts to fight SECTT. This can be done by signing and implementing The Code. Companies should also raise awareness about SECTT among travellers and tourists, and train staff on how to prevent and respond to SECTT. The ICT industry needs to adopt rules against SECTT, and ICT companies need to develop technology-based solutions to combat SECTT. Even if a company is not in the business of travel or tourism, they should adopt rules for employees who travel on business and make sure that they get police checks if they will be in contact with children during business trips.

Action: Signing on to Build Zero-Tolerance Environments for SECTT

The Code is an initiative driven by the travel and tourism industry to offer awareness, tools, and support to the industry to recognize and prevent potential cases of SECTT. Companies who sign on to The Code agree to six criteria such as creating an anti-SECTT policy; training staff to prevent and report SECTT; making sure every company involved agrees to fight SECTT; raising awareness among travelers; informing key people at the local level; and reporting every year on how the application of the Code is working. It has over 270 members worldwide, ranging from small businesses to multinational hotel chains and airlines. It's considered to be one of the most important tools for fighting SECTT.

NGOs

NGOs need to bridge the gaps left by national governments. They should research SECTT and raise awareness. If governments aren't already doing so, they should provide the best kind of care and reintegration for victims so that they transition into regular life with ease.

They should also provide training for the travel and tourism industry to recognize and respond to incidences of SECTT, and watch for good examples of SECTT prevention and care, and share them with others. They should also empower young people with the knowledge, tools, funding, and training they need to fight SECTT.

Action: Increasing Vigilance and Reporting

The **“Don’t Look Away” Campaign** – started by European members of the ECPAT Network – informed travellers, particularly, those travelling to Brazil for the 2014 World Cup, of laws against SECTT, through awareness messages, and an online reporting platform set up with the police. Brazil’s Social Services of Industry also displayed awareness messages in airports, taxis, restaurants, and hotels in 12 host cities reaching 3 million Brazilian travellers, and 600, 000 foreigners! Even Brazilian football stars jumped in on the action, by broadcasting a prevention advertisement encouraging everyone to be responsible.

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Communities

Communities, including religious leaders, teachers, parents, and children themselves need to help reverse the power imbalances between offenders and victims. For instance, they should raise community awareness about the dangers of SECTT and shatter ignorance, and empower children to protect themselves. Children, as experts themselves, should act as peer educators and lobby for the change they wish to see.

Action: Preventing SECTT through Education

Fundación PANIAMOR-ECPAT Costa Rica and the International Bureau for Children’s Rights launched the Binational Project to increase SECTT prevention by engaging families and children (among others), in the two tourist cities of Guanacaste and Punarenas. The project involved activities such as reaching out to target groups like children and families, designing educational strategies for them, and training them. For instance, young people were trained as peer educators.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

How much do you really now about SECTT? Take this quiz and find out.

1. True or False: There are more domestic offenders than foreign offenders.
2. Fill in the Blanks: A person who doesn't travel to sexually exploit a child, but ends up doing so, because they can is a _____ offender.
3. What do offenders have that make it easy for them to sexually exploit children?
 - a. Money
 - b. Status
 - c. Authority
 - d. All of the Above
4. Fill in the Blanks: A person who connects vulnerable children to travelling child sex offenders, and receives some benefit through cash, gifts, favours, or services is an _____.
5. What is SECTT a toxic mix of?
 - a. Power, Anonymity, and Impunity
 - b. Power, Love, and Impunity
 - c. Love, Anonymity, and Power
6. What has increased the risk of SECTT?
 - a. The massive growth in travel and tourism
 - b. Companies extending operations to other countries and regions
 - c. Armed conflict and natural disasters
 - d. The advancement and availability of ICTs
 - e. All of the Above
7. True or False: Some regions of the world have not experienced SECTT.
8. What creates a climate of impunity in Europe?
 - a. Underreporting
 - b. Corruption
 - c. Weak laws
 - d. Difficult in collecting evidence
 - e. All of the above
 - f. None of the above
9. Fill in the Blanks: A form of tourism in which travellers participate in voluntary work, usually for an organization or cause is called _____.
10. Fill in the Blanks: A harmful cultural practice in MENA and South Asia, in which a girl is married off for a few hours to a few months for sex or to work, often as domestic servants is called a _____.

11. Most offenders are:
 - a. Preferential, come from the same country or region, and are tourists
 - b. Situational, come from the same country or region, and are travelling for work
 - c. Preferential, come from another country, and are tourists
 - d. Situational, come from another country, and are travelling for work
12. What is not a main factor making children vulnerable to SECTT?
 - a. Curiosity
 - b. Living on the Streets
 - c. Social and Peer Pressure
 - d. Discrimination and Social Exclusion
 - e. Poverty
13. True or False: Victims of SECTT are typically poor girls who are sold into prostitution by their parents.
14. The responsibility to protect children from SECTT falls on who?
 - a. Families and communities
 - b. Law enforcement
 - c. National Governments
 - d. NGOs.
 - e. Companies
 - f. All of the above

ANSWER KEY

1. True. Find out more on page 25.
 2. Situational. Find out more on page 10.
 3. D- All of the Above. Find out more on page 11.
 4. Intermediary. Find out more on page 11.
 5. A- Power, Anonymity, and Impunity. Find out more on page 11.
 6. E- All of the above. Find out more on page 11.
 7. False. Find out more on pages 12.
 8. E- All of the Above. Find out more on page 19.
 9. Volun-tourism. Find out more on pages 9, 23 and 27.
 10. Temporary Child Marriage. Find out more on page 7.
 11. B- Situational, come from the same country or region, and are travelling for work. Find out more on page 10.
 12. A- Curiosity. Find out more on page 32, 33.
 13. False. Find out more on page 32.
 14. F- All of the Above. Find out more on page 39, 41.
- So, how did you do?

GET INSPIRED: EXAMPLES OF CHILD AND YOUTH ACTIONS AGAINST SECTT

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YPP Youth call “Let’s Protect our Children: Say ‘NO’ to SECTT” in Ukraine!

In 2010, youth motivators and peer supporters of the Global Youth Partnership Project (YPP) in Ukraine made history when they launched the first awareness-raising campaign against SECTT in the country. Beginning with peer-to-peer trainings on SECTT for 37 children and youth; the team gave interviews and took their message to the air-waves, newspapers, social media, reaching more than 50 000! In the cities of Kyiv, Odessa, and Simferopol, young leaders participated in street actions where they also distributed around 500 rubber bracelets and 1000 brochures with anti-SECTT messages to children and their parents. In the city of Simferopol, in particular, children paraded through a major park shouting slogans such as “We are against SECTT!” and “Stop SECTT!”, and distributed brochures and rubber bracelets. In Kyiv, the problem of SECTT was communicated within the quest game “Child rights protection – future of Ukraine”.



Cheryl and OneChild Mobilize the Canadian Travel and Tourism Industry against SECTT

On the other side of the globe, Canadian teenager, Cheryl Perera, was planting the seed for the anti-SECTT movement in her country. Rallying her peers, Cheryl founded OneChild – the first organization empowering a movement of children and youth combating the sexual exploitation of children. Their first project: lobby Canada's national airline – Air Canada to screen youth-produced in-flight videos on Canada's extraterritorial law against SECTT.

Cheryl's team created videos; wrote letters to child rights experts and law enforcement to enlist their support; circulated a youth petition to Air Canada, garnering hundreds of thousands of signatures; and met face-to-face with company representatives. A month later, Air Canada announced that they would partner with OneChild and began screening videos against SECTT on domestic and international flights to a viewership of over 22 million passengers!

But the youth of OneChild didn't rest on their laurels! They joined a coalition with other Canadian child rights organizations and launched the first-ever nation-wide campaign against SECTT. They organized trainings for the travel and tourism industry in different cities; and partnered with airlines, airports, travel agencies, tour operators, embassies and consulates to distribute and display awareness-raising billboards, posters, and brochures, reaching millions.



MAIS Peer-Educators Raise the Profile of SECTT in the Dominican Republic

The Youth Network of MAIS, an ECPAT member in the Dominican Republic, works in communities to raise awareness among children on the issue of SECTT. The young leaders partner with local educational divisions in order to get access to schools and ensure that the awareness raising is implemented in a systematic way. Young activists organise discussions and other sessions with school and college students of different ages. The students interested in the issue and willing to contribute to the cause are invited to join other sessions to learn more about SECTT and CSEC overall. The most interested students become agents of change, and share the information with peers, their parents and even business people in their communities.

THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

“We are a protective wall built around the rights of children and adolescents... we will not allow the use of children and adolescents for sexual purposes inside our country. They are our future and in the same way that the walls around Cartagena protected us we feel obligated to protect our most precious treasure, our children and adolescents.”

– Young person, Fundación Renacer, Colombia

Young people have a most tremendous power to turn the tide on SECTT. As the group affected by SECTT, they have an expertise that governments, companies, and the police simply can't offer. They're also unstoppable. Just take a cue from the youth of YPP Ukraine, OneChild from Canada or Youth Network of Mais in the Dominican Republic.

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All over the world, young people have banded together in a movement pushing back against the sexual exploitation of children and that's created waves in their communities, schools, cities, and countries. They're smart, brave, passionate, savvy, creative, and persistent. They've used their unique experiences and talents to protect themselves as well as their peers around the world. **And you can do the same.**

So check out the following ideas for action. They've been recommended by young people themselves, and we've broken them up into categories, starting with the easiest actions and ending with those that need more time and resources. Remember, no action is too small.

A Helpful Tip: Action in Numbers

Taking action is much easier when you're working as part of team. Not only do you have different ideas and opinions flowing in, but you also have people to support you when it gets tough, and people to celebrate with you through your triumphs! Plus, it's fun! So, gather your friends together and start a club!



Learn More

Don't just stop here. Knowledge is power! Head to **www.globalstudysectt.org** to dive deeper into the issue of SECTT.

Volunteer

Is there a child-serving or anti-SECTT organization in your community that could use your help? Maybe you have a special talent for making videos that they can use, or you're a great public speaker, and they're looking for people to give presentations. Ask them what help they need, and volunteer your time!

Raise awareness

You've learned a lot from this report. Now it's time to share your knowledge. You can...

- Use the power of ICTs to protect children. Share [this video](#), and other facts, articles, interviews, videos, petitions about SECTT on social media, blogs, and websites. Ask everyone to share what you've posted and make it viral!
- Write articles about SECTT or blog about it. Mix things up by contacting key people and organizations in the fight against SECTT and interview them to get their opinions, too. You can even start your own magazine.
- Get talking! Contact your local radio station and convince them to give you some airspace to talk about SECTT.
- Use music, theatre, dance, or poetry to educate audiences about SECTT. For example, write a play about SECTT that tells the journey of a child survivor. We think this is a great idea because it gives a voice to the voiceless, especially illiterate young people, and a chance for survivors to express themselves and tell their story.
- Give presentations and workshops in schools and communities. You can even organize your own 1, 2, or 3-day conference for young people, or turn your presentations into a road show that travels from community to community. This is a great way to teach other young people to protect themselves and others, and recruit them for other actions against SECTT. But why just limit it to young people? Give presentations before adults too, and teach them what they should know about SECTT, and show them how powerful young people can be!
- Use your artistic talents to create posters, brochures, and stickers with hard-hitting, memorable messages against SECTT. Give them out in popular, public places. You can even make it a competition, and give the best entry a prize!
- Calling all coders! Build a website that shines the spotlight on SECTT. Fill it with videos, photos, interviews, and links to helpful organizations.
- Create a short video about SECTT. Use them in presentations at schools, and don't be afraid to ask websites, even television networks, to air them.
- Rally and march against SECTT. This is sure to get the problem of SECTT noticed, keep you and your group energized, and show strength in numbers.
- Organize a high-profile stunt such as a flash mob to get attention. Get creative, but remember, **safety comes first**.

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Advocate

Take what you've learned from this report, and think about a particular change you want to see, or an action that you want a decision-maker(s) to take to fight SECTT.

- Write a letter to them stating your feelings about SECTT, and make your requests.
- Take it a step further and start a petition. It puts pressure on decision-makers and shows them that a lot of people want the change that you're requesting. It also gives a large number of supporters a simple and easy action, but one that can really make a difference.
- Hold a meeting with them to voice your opinions, or organize a seminar for policy-makers and invite experts on SECTT to speak.

Fundraise

As you've read in this report, victims often don't have access to shelter, food, therapy, medical care, legal help, or education, to help them recover. Why not lend a helping hand to reputable organizations working on the front lines with victims and help expand their services for greater numbers of victims? Here are three great ideas for fundraisers that you can do alone or with friends.

- **Seeds of Hope:** Sell cheap seeds (or even better, fair trade seeds) and attach a small card, picture, or fact about SECT. On the other side, explain that when the person plants the seeds, they should think about the victims of SECTT. Then when they see the plants grow, they'll know that there is hope-that something amazing and beautiful can come from very little.
- **Bike for Kids:** This is a great idea suggested by the young people from YPP Thailand. Bike a long distance, and get your family, friends, and members of the community to pledge money for every kilometre or mile you travel. Get people to notice what you're doing by wearing a t-shirt or a sign with an anti-SECTT message, while you're on the move.
- **So you think you can _____?** Grab your friends who are great singers, dancers, musicians, even comedians! Hold a talent competition and charge an entry fee. Make sure to give out plenty of anti-SECTT brochures and stickers.

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Want More?

Check out ECPAT's [Youth Advocacy Manual](#) for tricks, hints, and tips on taking action against sexual exploitation. ECPAT's youth journals and publications on the Global Youth Participation Project are also excellent resources if you're looking for a dose of inspiration from other youth.

And if you're ready to get involved with ECPAT, get in touch with ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee Focal Points or Child and Youth Participation Programme.

Talk to Us!

Having difficulty identifying what kind of change you want to see? Struggling with crafting your message? Need some help with planning your actions? We're here for you. And not just for those reasons. We want to showcase the incredible work you're doing to combat SECTT, amplify your efforts, and find out from you how we can further support you. Contact us at info@ecpat.org.

With every problem, lies an opportunity for action.

From the U.S. to the Philippines, Dominican Republic to Indonesia, the Gambia to Ukraine, young people who have made change all had one common start: after learning about SECTT, they refused to look away and decided to take action. Now that you've got the facts about SECTT, what will you do?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS and GET HELP!

After reading this report, if you think that either you or someone you know is being exploited, please read the following **“Bill of Rights for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”** to learn and share information about their specific rights. ECPAT International has developed the Bill of Rights to make child-victims aware of their right to be free from sexual exploitation and to ensure that they know about their right to access justice and seek remedies.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

If you are under the age of 18 and someone has touched your body, or asked you to touch theirs, in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable and/or ashamed; or has talked to you in a sexual way; if you have been forced, threatened or manipulated into having sex or taking part in sexual activities with someone aged below 18 or older; if you have been audio recorded, filmed, or photographed while naked or taking part in sexual activities or if you have been shown, asked to listen, watch or look at sexual activities; if you have been moved from your home to another place within or outside your country and then forced, threatened or manipulated into taking part in sexual activities; if these acts were done to you regardless of whether you were paid for them – either with money or through gifts, treats or favours; by someone in your family, a friend, neighbour, boyfriend or girlfriend or by a complete stranger; either online or offline:

it means you are a **victim** of sexual exploitation and abuse which is a **crime** under international law.

No one is allowed to do these things to you, because **you have the Right to be safe from sexual exploitation and abuse.** Nobody should ever blame you for what has happened to you because it is not your fault.

You have, like any other person, Rights. They are the things every child should have to lead happy, healthy and safe lives, and adults like your parents, teachers or your government, are supposed to provide you with opportunities to be able to use your Rights. This document tells you about your Rights listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and other international treaties. Children just like you, helped to write this document for you to understand and find out how to get the protection and care you are entitled to.

The Convention has four general principles that must be applied across all children's Rights:

- **You have the Right to be protected from discrimination**
Teachers, social workers, police officers, lawyers and others must do their best to treat you fairly and protect all of your Rights, no matter who you are or where you come from, or who you love.
- **You have the Right for your best interests to be given primary consideration.**
All actions and decisions that affect you should be based on what is best for you.
- **You have the Right to life and development**
You have the Right to grow up and develop in a healthy manner and in a safe environment. Adults should help you in realising this Right.
- **You have the Right to be heard and influence what happens to you**
When adults are making decisions that affect you, you have the Right to say freely what you think should happen to you and your opinion has to be listened to and taken seriously.

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Specific Rights for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse are:

1. **You have the Right to report what has happened to you**
You should not feel scared or ashamed to tell a trusted organisation, a safe person or the police what has happened, or is happening to you. A safe person is someone who has never hurt you. He or she could be a family member, friend, teacher, lawyer, doctor or social worker. If you do tell a safe person or a trusted organisation, to help you they might have to tell the police what happened to you.
2. **You have the Right to be protected**
Your Right to be protected includes your Right to be rescued from the sexual exploitation and abuse. Police have a duty to prevent and detect crimes and to help you in getting out of danger and away from people who hurt you. Often the police will work with other people such as social workers, doctors and others to make sure that all your needs are met and you are supported.
3. **You have the Right to file a criminal complaint against the people who hurt you**
You have the Right to decide if you want to officially complain about the person who hurt you. If you do, the police should investigate your complaint. Together with prosecutors, judges and lawyers, they should handle your complaint as quickly as possible, but the process can sometimes be long and tiring. If, at the end of the process the people who hurt you are found guilty, they should be punished.

4. You have the Right to special treatment when you participate in the legal process.

You have an important role in the legal process. You may have to tell your story more than once and you will probably have to go to court. This can be difficult, but taking part in the legal process should never be harmful to you. The police officers, prosecutors and judges in charge of your complaint have to care for your needs, and sometimes they can do things a little differently to make the process easier for you. For example, in some countries, the law allows children to testify in court from a private room by camera or in the judge's office with a trusted adult by your side. If you are asked to do anything during the legal process that makes you afraid or upset, speak up because special measures can be taken to help you.

5. You have a Right to get help that can make the legal process easier for you
During the legal process you may want legal advice, help with translation, or just some information about how the legal system works. You can sometimes get this help for free at the hospital, police station, prosecutor's office, courthouse or from your social worker. There are also community organisations, such as legal aid societies or children's rights groups, who can give you the help you need.

6. You have the Right to be safe during the legal process

You and your family have a Right to be protected from threats or harassment during the legal process. No one should try to make you change your story or take back what you have said.

7. You have the Right to have your privacy respected during the legal process
Police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers should ensure that no information that could help the public identify you (for example, your name, address, and picture) gets out.

8. You have the Right to free medical and social services to help you cope and get better before and during the legal process and until you feel okay again
You have the Right to have your basic needs met, including food, clothing and shelter. You also have a Right to receive or continue your education, and any care or support you may need, such as medical treatment and counselling. Receiving these services shouldn't depend on whether there is a criminal complaint or not.

9. You have the Right to get information related to the legal process

You have the Right to know what is happening with your complaint. The information you receive should be in a language that you understand. You have the Right to ask questions at any time.

10. You have the Right to claim compensation for the harm done to you

You can start a process against the person(s) who hurt you to receive money or other benefits, to make up for the harm caused to you. You might also be able to receive money from the government to pay for any costs you have had or for any services you have used (such as counselling and medical expenses) to help you get better.

Get Help!

It can be hard to stop and get out of a bad situation, but reaching out for help is the first step. There are a lot of people and organisations who can help and protect you, including social services, non-governmental organisations, and helplines.

Here is a list of organisation to contact. They will be able to provide the contact details of the local children's organization or the child helplines.

Organisations to contact for help

If you're a victim of SECTT or know someone who is, contact:

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Child Helpline International establishes helplines all over the world. Visit www.childhelplineinternational.org to find a helpline number in your country.



Don't Look Away! is an ECPAT-initiated online platform to report SECTT cases. Visit www.reportchildsextourism.org or download the ECPAT app in app stores, and click on your country's flag or another, if you understand the language.



CybertipLine is an initiative of the United States-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. They accept international reports. Visit www.cybertipline.com.



Virtual Global Taskforce investigates online abuse and exploitation. Report abuse in Australia, Canada, Colombia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, U.A.E, U.K, and U.S.A at www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com.

ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO END SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Hungry for more information? Then we've got your back! The following are the all stars – the largest organizations working to end SECTT. Feel free to contact them for more information or to find details about local organizations in your area.



ECPAT International
www.ecpat.org
info@ecpat.org



Global Study
www.globalstudysectt.org
globalstudysectt@ecpat.net



**We protect
children from
sex tourism.**

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children
from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism
www.thecode.org
info@thecode.org

Terre des Hommes
International Federation

Terre des Hommes
www.terredeshommes.org
info(at)terredeshommes.org

**Better
Care
Network**

Better Care Network
www.bettercarenetwork.org
contact@bettercarenetwork.org



United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
<http://ethics.unwto.org/content/protection-children-tourism>



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
www.unicef.org



ECPAT International

**328/1 Phayathai Road,
Ratchathewi Bangkok 10400 THAILAND**

Tel: +66 2 215 3388

Fax: +66 2 215 8272

Email: info@ecpat.net

Website: www.ecpat.org