



ECPAT-USA

Protect Children in Tourism Project

The Protect Children in Tourism (PCT) Project was created to:

- 1) Obtain the support of the travel industry for the ECPAT Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism www.thecode.org;
- 2) Provide training and technical system to many sectors to raise awareness, identify modes of action when child sex tourism is suspected
- 3) Identify resources for children who were sexually exploited by American sex tourists;
- 4) Work toward a protective environment by mobilizing all sectors of society.

The PCT Project began operation in Cancun, Mexico in 2004, with funding from the U.S. State Department. It expanded to the country of Belize in 2005 and throughout the Riviera Maya section of Mexico. In 2007 the Body Shop Foundation also provided support.

The PCT Project also seeks the support of U.S. companies for the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

Why we do this: It is estimated that as many as 25% of the travelers sexually exploiting children around the world are from the United States. Any country with a growing tourism trade is at risk for child sex tourism. Both Belize and Mexico are committed to preventing the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Protect Children in Tourism Project offers support and technical assistance.

In Mexico, based on a review of cases reported by the media, it is estimated that in 1998 and 2000, between 16,000 and 20,000 children under 18 were victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Other estimates show between 5,000 and 80,000 cases of child sexual exploitation in the major cities. The Cancun region of Mexico is the biggest destination in Mexico for American tourists. About 50% of all American arrivals in Mexico are in Cancun.

Belize, with its much smaller population than Mexico, also depends on tourism for a large part of its Gross National Product. More than half of its tourists are from the United States.



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

The Code was created in 1998 by the ECPAT organization in Sweden, in conjunction with the travel industry and the UN World Tourism Organization. Initially created for tour operators, it was quickly adopted by hotels, travel agencies and other kinds of businesses in travel and tourism. It is a comprehensive prevention instrument, which works simultaneously at different levels within and outside the company. When a company adopts the Code it commits itself to implement these six criteria:

1. To establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children
2. To train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations.
3. To introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers, stating the common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children.
4. To provide information to customers (travelers) by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, home pages, etc.
5. To provide information to local "key persons" at the destinations.
6. To report annually.

How Companies Apply to sign the Code: Companies interested in the Code of Conduct will find all the information about the six criteria and the standard procedure for signing and implementing of the Code of Conduct in the Information Sheet on the Code website at www.thecode.org.

In general, after a company expresses interest by contacting "The Code" Secretariat in New York, it will receive an information packet with an application and directions for the next steps, including the elaboration of an Action Plan for implementing the Code. After a company's application is approved by the Code of Conduct Executive Committee, the signing and implementation can go forward.

For more information contact the Code Secretariat (camelia.tepelus@thecode.org)

Please Patronize these Code of Conduct Companies

Belize:

Belize Legacy Resort; Belize Odyssey Resort; Belize River Lodge; Belize Yacht Club; Black Rock Lodge; Blue Marlin Lodge; Caesar's Place; Caye Caulker Condos; Cayo Adventure Tour; Chaa Creek Lodge; Cruise Solutions; Crystal Paradise Resort; Dana Clancy Tourist Guide; Discovery Belize; EcoTrek; Eurocaribe Shipping Services; Five Sisters Lodge; Five Sister Tour Company Ltd.; Gilbert Davis Tourist Guide; Hamanasi Resort; HCCM Ltd. Das Sugar Reef; IBTM Tours; Kamil Tours; Lazy Iguana B&B; Machaca Hill Lodge; Mara's Place; Mundo Maya Cabanas; Pacz Tours; The Placencia Hotel; Placencia Inn; PR Shoppe; Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina; Rainforest Alliance (RA); Rodney Waight Tourist Guide; Rum Point Inn; San Ignacio Hotel; Seaduced; Sun Creek Lodge and IBTM Tours; TIDE tours; Toledo Art and Pottery Women's Group; Tour Belize Limited; Tropical Paradise Resort; VEGA INN; Zippy Zappy Boating

Mexico:

Accor Mexico; Atlantis Submarines (Cozumel); Barcelo Maya, Barcelo Costa Cancun, Barcelo Tucuncun Beach, Barcelo Costa Cancún; Delphinus Dolphin Parks; Enchanting Group (Tulum); Grupo Palace Hotels; Grupo Quinta; Grupo Xcaret; Mandarin Oriental; Nueva Vida de Ramiro Hotel (Tulum); Oasis Hotels; Omni Puerto Aventuras Beach Resort; Palladium Hotels and Resorts; Radisson Hotel; Vista del Mar Beach Front Hotel& Condominiums (Akumal)

United States:

Amazon Tours; Carlson Companies; ElaBrasil

Other associations and government agencies that support the Code of Conduct:

Belize: Atlantic Bank; Belize Ecotourism Association (BETA); Belize Hotel Association (BHA); Belize National Tourist Guide Association; Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA); Michael Panton Hospitality Trainer; NOPCAN; Programme for Belize (Pfb)

Mexico: AMMJE (Asociacion de Mujeres Empresarias de Cancun); AMMJE (Asociacion de Mujeres Empresarias de Cozumel); Aquatic Service Providers' Association (APSA); Asoc. De Agencias y Ejecutivos de Viajes de la Riviera Maya; Asociación de Pequeños Hoteles de la Riviera Maya; Asociacion de Hoteleros Restauranteros y Servicios Turisticos de Tulum; CANACINTRA, Subdelegacion Cozumel; CANACO (Camara Nacional de Comercio); Cancun branch of the Quintana Roo Association of Hotels; CANIRAC (Camara Nac de la Ind de Restaurantes y Alimentos Condimentados); Consejo Coordinador Empresarial (Cancún); COPARMEX (ConfPatronal de a RepMexicana - Sindicato de Empresarios); Cozumel Hotel Association; Cozumel Municipality/DIF Cozumel; CROC (Conf Revolucionaria de Obreros y Campesinos); Hotel Association of Cancun; Junta Coordinadora Empresarial (Cozumel); Municipality of Benito Juarez (Cancun); Municipality of Solidaridad/DIF; Operadora Ernesto's (Cozumel); Riviera Maya Enterprises Association (Consejo Coordinador Empresarial); Riviera Maya Hotel Association; Sindicato de Choferes Taxistas (Cozumel); Sindicato de taxistas Tulum; Sistema Quintanarroense de Comunicacion Social; Taxi Unions of Playa del Carmen (Lazaro Cardenas del Rio); TUCSA - Transportes Urbanos del Carmen; Tulum Hotel Association; UNTRAC (Union Nactional de transportistas campesinos)

United States: American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA)

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