



ECPAT-USA IS A POLICY ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS AT A CRITICAL NEXUS BETWEEN NATIONAL POLICY MAKERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND CASE WORKERS TO SHARE INFORMATION, BEST PRACTICES AND EFFECTIVE POLICIES THAT PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

Take a Stand Against Child Sex Tourism Activist Toolkit



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Activist Toolkit

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Total Time: 90-120 Minutes	

Instructions

- You should read this toolkit in full before utilizing it, becoming familiar with the subject matter and looking up anything you don't fully understand.
- The purpose of this toolkit is to raise awareness on the issue of child sex tourism. This toolkit is designed to be used by group leaders, teachers, the clergy, or community organizers and can be best utilized in the form of a presentation or workshop. If it is well received you may use the alternate toolkit, Take a Stand Against Child Sex Trafficking in America, or if you've already used that you could offer to form an Anti-Trafficking Club with the listeners.
- Child Sex Tourism is a form of sex trafficking, wherein adults have sex with children at travel destinations. According to our research, approximately 25% of child sex tourists in the world are North American
- Make enough photocopies of pages 7, 10, and 11 to handout to everyone participating. Have one copy of pages 13-16 to hand out to four different groups. If you're going to show the videos, you'll need access to a computer and speakers. A blackboard or white board to write on would be helpful for several of the activities, but not necessary.
- For the presentation, begin with the Child Sex Tourism pre-test by handing out copies for the participants to fill out. After five minutes collect the pretest and show the first video clip. You should review both video clips before deciding if you feel comfortable with displaying them to the audience, they are not graphic and include no explicit language. You can still use this toolkit even if you do not show one or both of the videos.
- When the presentation is over, we would appreciate it if you could please total up the results of the pretest and send it to mmayer@ecpatusa.org, along with the state the activity was performed in and the age group it was given to.
- A lesson plan format of this toolkit for use by teachers can be found at <http://ecpatusa.org/take-action/spread-the-word/>

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (1/4)

- This is something you, the facilitator, should read ahead of time, to prepare yourself for answering any questions participants might have during the discussion.

Child Prostitution Is Only A Problem In Poor Countries (FALSE)

- Child Prostitution happens in virtually every country. It is a problem usually only talked about in the context of poorer countries but it's a real problem for wealthy nations as well. One study estimates that there are 300,000 children at risk for commercial sexual exploitation in the US,¹ another study found that there were almost 4,000 victims of CSEC in New York City alone,² and that was only counting local children, not foreign victims trafficked to the city. For the most part, however, wealthier countries are supplying the tourists that have sex with children, and it's important they end the demand side by educating their citizens and cracking down on these criminals.

Some Cultures Are Okay With Adults Having Sex With Children (FALSE)

- While the world is a very diverse place, with a plethora of different cultures, creeds, and ways of life, no culture condones the prostitution of. Yes, in some cultures young girls are married as soon as they enter puberty, and in a few remote areas even younger. Some are comfortable with teenagers exploring their burgeoning sexuality, but neither of these constitute prostitution. No country permits or encourages child prostitution. Locals may turn a blind eye to the brothels in their backyard, but don't take this behavior as tacit approval. When filming the movie 'Holly' in Cambodia, actor Ron Livingston spent time with his co-star Thuy Nguyen off the set. He described the expressions of the locals as, 'if looks could kill', because they assumed he was a sex tourist and not a film star doing a movie about the prostitution of children. ECPAT affiliates around the world are staffed with native residents who want to see the children of their home country freed from sexual slavery.

¹ The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children In the U. S., Canada and Mexico, http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/restes/CSEC_Files/Exec_Sum_020220.pdf

²The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City, Volume One, The CSEC Population in New York City: Size, Characteristics, and Needs, http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/CSEC_NYC_Volume1.pdf

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (2/4)

You Can Be Arrested In The US For Having Sex With a Child Overseas (TRUE)

- The PROTECT Act ("Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today) of 2003³ provides for the prosecution of citizens who have sex with a child in foreign nations with up to 30 years imprisonment as well as fines.

Adults Paying Children For Sex Is Good For The Children Involved Because They Are Poor And Need The Money (FALSE)

- Believing that a prostituted child gets to keep the money they are paid is naïve. These transactions are almost always arranged through a broker who may act like the child is an independent agent. In a brothel, when a John gives the child money and leaves, the broker immediately takes the money away. For example, if it was a street pick-up, the pimp or madam will demand the child meet specific quotas (such as every night, week or month), praising and rewarding them when they exceed it, abusing and beating them if they fail to make enough money or are found to be withholding money.
- Child prostitution is a symptom of poverty, not a solution. It will continue as long as there is demand for it. If people stopped patronizing prostituted children criminals would stop recruiting them into it. It would be far better for the child to be in school, learning a trade, or participating in a family's business (such as farming) than to be on the streets. There are no jobs where having 'prostitute' on your resume will give you a leg up on the competition, no valuable skills that you learn that can be applied to other fields of work. The future of a prostituted child is bleak; when they are no longer attractive they will end up as homeless beggars, take part in recruiting younger children into prostitution, or attempt to start their lives over. In the best case scenario, they've only been traumatized and set back in life by ten years or more. Yes, some do rise up to be exceptional activists in the fight against child sex trafficking, or go on to live productive, modest lives, but the hurdles that such a trauma imposes upon them is not fair by any stretch of the imagination.

³ <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-108s151enr/pdf/BILLS-108s151enr.pdf>, S. 151—5 (c)

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (3/4)

Many Travel Companies Are Taking the Necessary Steps To Protect Children From Sexual Exploitation (TRUE)

- **The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (The Code) is a travel industry driven solution in response to the problem of child sex tourism and child sex trafficking. With over a thousand signatories worldwide and more signing on every year, an increasing number of travel and tour staff are trained to react to their suspicions surrounding CSEC- they not longer stand idly. They take active measures to ensure that their facilities are not being utilized by traffickers and are not safe havens for prostitution rings. By signing The Code, companies agree to work alert the proper authorities when sex trafficking occurs on their properties. Signatories include more than just hotels- airlines, travel agencies, and tourism boards have also signed the Code,⁴ but many more still need to sign on.**

US Travel Companies Are The Leaders In The Growing Movement to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (FALSE)

- **ECPAT-USA has struggled to gain momentum with the travel and tourism industry in the United States. Companies just do not believe exploitation occurs in and around their businesses. While the Code has over a thousand signatories worldwide, only five U.S. based companies have signed. The current U.S signatories are Carlson Companies (Raddison), Global Exchange, Delta Airlines, Hilton Worldwide, and Millennium Hotel St. Louis. American tourism related companies fear the bad publicity they might endure if their brand “becomes associated” with child trafficking or child sex tourism. They feel that if customers saw that the compaby has a policy against it or an awareness raising campaign, they will assume the company had a problem in the past and would choose to travel with a company who does not have any policy. Companies also fear future incidences of child sex trafficking that may occur after signing the Code. Lawyers could use a violation of their child sex trafficking policy as grounds for a lawsuit, either on behalf of the victim who should have been identified by the staff, on behalf of the public who relied upon the policy’s enforcement when making travel decisions, or even in extreme circumstances on behalf of the trafficker. The company would likely win any such case, but only after spending a great deal of money in legal fees and even more damage to their reputation.**

⁴ http://www.thecode.org/index.php?page=6_3

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (4/4)

Most Child Prostitutes in Foreign Countries Are Pimped By Their Own Parents (FALSE)

- No parent would willingly sign their child up to be a prostitute, not unless it was to save them from death. In some areas, extreme poverty could be considered a cause, but don't believe that these parents are prostituting their children and living 'high on the hog'. It's desperate times call for desperate measures, and if that's the only commodity they have... while most parents would refuse there will always be some parents who choose life, even at the loss of innocence and dignity. Most children who are forced, coerced, or defrauded into becoming a prostitute will not tell their parents the truth of their situation. If able to send letters home or make phone calls, they are more likely to say that they are working in a factory or a restaurant. In the cases where local gangs and mafias control the rural areas, parents may know the truth of what befell the child that was taken from them, but they will not admit to it aloud.

Women Are Less Likely Than Men To Prostitute Children (FALSE)

- According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), women can make up over 50% of traffickers convicted in various countries.⁵ At first this sounds shocking but think about it; if you were a victim of sex trafficking at the age of 12, that's the only life you know. By the time you become too old to be of use to your traffickers you will have accepted the "fact" that your fate is just a part of life. It's a cruel world out there, no one helped you out, so why should you look out for anyone else. Younger victims will 'just have to get used to it' as you did. These women have no job skills, prostitution is the only thing they know, so it's either become a recruiter and part of the organization that victimized you or become a beggar on the streets.

⁵ http://www.unodc.org/documents/Global_Report_on_TIP.pdf, pg. 10

Activity: Pre-Test

5 Minutes

- Please read the following statements and check your responses in the appropriate boxes.

		True	False	Unsure
1	Child prostitution is a problem in poor countries			
2	In some foreign countries its culturally acceptable for adults to have sex with children			
3	You can be arrested in the US for having sex with a child overseas			
4	Adults paying children for sex is good for the children involved because they are poor and in need of money			
5	Many Travel companies are taking the necessary steps to protect children from sexual exploitation			
6	US Travel companies are the leaders in the growing movement to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children			
7	Many child prostitutes in foreign countries are pimped by their own parents			
8	Women are less likely than men to prostitute children			

MTV EXIT Music PSA

Video (15-20 minutes)

- This one minute music PSA sums up the basics of Sex Tourism. MTV EXIT is a campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking and the videos on the website were produced in partnership with USAID. The video clip is available at
- http://www.mtvexit.org/videoGet.php?lang=1&id=2652&vdo_cat=2
- If you have a slow internet connection, load the video before you show it so you do not need to wait for buffering. Once the video ends you may begin the discussion.

Discussion Questions

- The film starts with two men walking into a brothel together. What is your impression of these men? If you saw them on the street earlier today do you think you could have known that they were the type of men to go to brothels?
- The film has a flashback where the young girl must tearfully leave home. What could be some of the reasons she moves to the city with only a single luggage trunk?
- The man who meets her at the bus station takes her to an apartment building. What are some of the things he might have said to gain her trust?
- The young man pays the young girl after having sex and leaves, then the other man comes in and takes the money. Do you think that the young man knows that the other man is taking the money? Do you think he would change his behavior if he knew otherwise?

After the Discussion

- Anyone interested in finding out more about the campaign can go to <http://www.mtvexit.org/>

ECPAT / AIR FRANCE PSA

Video (10 – 15 minutes)

- This one and a half minute PSA takes another look at Child Sex Tourism. The video clip is available at
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAa7GdfbsqY>
- If you have a slow internet connection, load the video before you show it so you do not need to wait for buffering. Once the video ends you may begin the discussion.

Discussion Questions

- Where did you think this video is supposed to take place? What aspects of the location are similar to the first video we saw?
- What do you think led to the children being at that club in the first place?
- If the young girls in the video don't like being there, what keeps them from running away? How might someone keep them in such a public place against their will?
- At the end of the video it shows a list of people and prison sentences. What do you think those people were arrested for? Does the length of the sentences surprise you? Do you think they're too little? Too much?

Child Sex Tourism

Handout (1/2)

What is Child Sex Tourism

- It is a form of child prostitution
- It occurs when a person has sex with a child at any point during a trip
 - The reason for the trip does not need to be sex with a child
 - The intention does not need to be sex with a child
 - A person does not need to travel to a different country to be considered a sex tourist, only traveling to a different city is sufficient

What Motivates a Child Sex Tourist?

- The reasons vary, and it may be a combination of multiple factors
 - **Impulse Control:** Sex Tourists seek sex with attractive, young people. These young people may be adults and/or teenagers, as long as the young person acts willing it's considered okay to the tourist, even if they have to pay for it.
 - **Anonymity:** Far from home, some tourists feel they can act in ways they would not consider in their own neighborhood, such as visiting brothels
 - **Cultural ignorance:** Some tourists believe it is culturally acceptable in some places to have sex with children
 - **Rationalization:** Tourists tell themselves they are helping poor children, because they give them money for the sex acts they perform
 - **Sense of superiority:** Some tourists believe themselves superior to the local population because they have more money, are a different race, or a different culture. This leads them to believe that local children can be treated differently than those of their own nation.
 - **Pedophile:** Pedophile Sex Tourists seek sex with prepubescent children. They consider it safer to travel abroad to poorer countries than to molest children in their home area.
- Which reasons do you think are responsible for the actions of the men in the videos we saw?

Child Sex Tourism

Handout (2/2)

Who Supports Child Sex Tourism?

- The legitimate travel industry does not support Child Sex Tourism
 - Though its facilities may be used by the traffickers
- An adult sex tourism industry exists
 - It promotes sex tours to destinations where prostitution is legal.
 - Child prostitutes can be mixed in with adults at these locations.
 - There are countless cases of this occurring overseas.
- What are some legitimate travel industry facilities that can be utilized by child sex traffickers?

Laws Against Child Sex Tourism

- Every country in the world has outlawed prostitution of children
 - In a few countries, the tourist and the prostitute are arrested
- Americans can be prosecuted for soliciting a child prostitute in a foreign country.⁶
 - The sentence can be up to 30 years or life imprisonment
- Is a thirty year prison sentence enough to deter people?

Is It Okay To Say Child Prostitute?

- The words Prostitute and Prostitution imply choice
 - These children have no control over their own lives
 - So far we've used the term Child Prostitute pretty freely in this discussion
- When you hear the word Prostitute, what images come to your mind?
- When you hear the term child victim of sexual exploitation, what images come to your mind?
- Has what you heard so far today influenced your views at all? Do you still think it's okay to say Child Prostitute?

⁶ US Government Printing Office, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-108publ21/content-detail.html>

Good Samaritan or Trafficker?

Activity (30-40 minutes)

DO NOT READ THIS PORTION ALOUD

Divide the participants into four equally sized groups. Pass out one of the following handouts so that each group has a different sheet. Give them time to read it, and discuss it.

Once they have finished, read “The Situation” aloud to the entire group. Each sheet has the same paragraph. Then have a member of Group 1 read their “The Patron” and “The Question” sections in front of the other participants. Then have that member (or another) explain how the group interpreted the offer, and what they would do if they were in that position. Allow the members of other groups to respond. Once they have finished proceed to Group 2, and so on.

Since these are hypothetical situations, there is no right answer. The point of the exercise is to see if the participants are able to critically evaluate the situations provided. As long as the participants are able to explain their suspicions of the person they have succeeded at the exercise, even if they decide to ultimately trust that person. Ideally, the participants would only find the Priest Patron a trustworthy individual, and distrust the others.

- Is the situation described in the sheet likely a child sex trafficker or a Good Samaritan? Choose one person from the group to speak before everyone else and explain how you all arrived at that decision and what you would do if confronted with it.

Good Samaritan or Trafficker?

Handout (1/4)

The Situation

- You live in a small town of an island nation. There is a horrific earthquake that devastates the region. All the buildings and homes are destroyed, food and water become scarce, and gangs from a nearby city are rumored to be kidnapping women and children. Police are nowhere to be found, telephones don't work, and there's no access to the internet.

The Patron

- A local priest is going around to everyone in the town. He says help is on the way, but it will take years before the town is rebuilt. He is offering to go with the town's children to the US where wealthier members of the church can look after the children; they'll have a home to sleep in, all the food they can eat and water they can drink, and they'll be in school. The priest has lived in the town for years, is a trusted member of the community, and he will be sending his nieces and nephews to America with the other children.

The Question

- Do you go with the priest to America?

Good Samaritan or Trafficker?

Handout (2/4)

The Situation

- You live in a small town of an island nation. There is a horrific earthquake that devastates the region. All the buildings and homes are destroyed, food and water become scarce, and gangs from a nearby city are rumored to be kidnapping women and children. Police are nowhere to be found, telephones don't work, and there's no access to the internet.

The Patron

- A man with a fancy car comes to the town. He approaches you and says he represents a wealthy businessman in the US. The businessman heard about the tragic earthquake, and wants to take children to America, where they will attend a private school, have all the food they can eat and drink, and live in a mansion with servants. When the area is rebuilt, the businessman will send the children back, along with a lot of money. As a token of goodwill, the businessman has authorized this man to give parents money to try and rebuild.

The Question

- Do you go with the business man's representative to America?

Good Samaritan or Trafficker?

Handout (3/4)

The Situation

- You live in a small town of an island nation. There is a horrific earthquake that devastates the region. All the buildings and homes are destroyed, food and water become scarce, and gangs from a nearby city are rumored to be kidnapping women and children. Police are nowhere to be found, telephones don't work, and there's no access to the internet.

The Patron

- Your parents stay behind to take care of your siblings while you use what little money your family has to get to a distant city that was untouched by the earthquake. You hope to find work there, and send money back to your family. By the time you get to the city you have no money left, no food, and nowhere to sleep. A woman approaches you, seeing your distress. She asks what's wrong and then tells you that she's a wealthy person who knows about the devastation in the rest of the country. She wants to help you, and let you stay in an empty apartment of a building she owns. She'll get you a job at a restaurant where you can wait on tables. It's not a great job, but if you work hard for tips you'll earn enough to support yourself and send money back to your family.

The Question

- Do you go with the woman?

Good Samaritan or Trafficker?

Handout (4/4)

The Situation

- You live in a small town of an island nation. There is a horrific earthquake that devastates the region. All the buildings and homes are destroyed, food and water become scarce, and gangs from a nearby city are rumored to be kidnapping women and children. Police are nowhere to be found, telephones don't work, and there's no access to the internet.

The Patron

- You find a flyer that advertises jobs in a distant city. The flyer says that it needs young women and girls to work in the resorts on the other side of the island that haven't been hurt by the earthquake. Tourists are flocking to the country and they need more staff, including unskilled labor such as waitresses and maids. The companies will provide transportation from the town, and will provide applicants with housing. The cost of your housing will be deducted from your wages, of course, but you'll still have enough money left over to support yourself and your family as long as you work hard. The resorts will be sending a bus to the town next week, any women who want to work can get in.

The Question

- Do you get in the bus when it arrives, or encourage female relatives and friends to get in?

A Changing World

Discussion (15-20 Minutes)

What Are The Causes of Child Sex Tourism?

- Many countries rely upon conventional tourism for revenue
 - Even in wealthy countries the impoverished will move to tourist areas for job opportunities
 - There are never enough jobs for those seeking work and in need to support themselves and their families
- The greatest factor is not wealth, however, but demand
 - When a large number of people are willing to pay for something, even if its illegal, there are others who will look to make money providing it
 - Stricter laws and penalties have not stopped drug abuse
 - If no one was paying to have sex with children, traffickers would stop

What's Being Done To End Child Sex Tourism?

- Law enforcement agents arrest the exploiters and traffickers
 - Organized crime, however, can intimidate and bribe officers in some areas
 - Sometimes they'll arrest the victims and charge them with prostitution
- The Code of Conduct offers companies a means to train their staff to identify instances and take a public stance against exploitation- letting traffickers know that their facilities cannot be used for abuse.
- PSAs (Public Service Announcements) and awareness raising campaigns are alerting people to the fact that Child Sex Tourism is not a victimless crime.
 - These programs are not very well funded, and not reaching a broad audience. Companies also refuse to use these campaigns for fear that they will offend or gross out their customers.
- Before today, how many of you had heard of MTV's The Exit Campaign? Is it currently effective in reaching out to people who have not heard of Child Sex Trafficking or Child Sex Tourism?
- What are some ways to get more U.S. companies on board with the Code of Conduct?
- What can be done to inform people that Child Sex Tourism is going on in the world, that it's wrong, and that it can be stopped?
- What are you willing to do to help?