



**People from around the world speak out in ECPAT International's online survey on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child***

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**Bangkok, Thailand** - In the lead-up to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) on 20 November 2009, ECPAT International launched a special online survey to gather opinions on what can be done to make enforcement of child rights to protection from sexual exploitation, as envisioned in the CRC, a reality.

In the survey, respondents were asked to answer three basic questions: 1) what is needed to end sexual exploitation of children, 2) who are the main people to put an end to it, and 3) what can people like you do to better protect children.

A respondent from The Gambia answered the first question saying that 'Stronger laws must be created, and everyone must be made aware they exist. The laws must be enforced with tough consequences.'

Similarly, a respondent from Costa Rica wrote 'We must cut the demand for child sex abuse images with more strict criminal laws and tougher punishments both for consumers and producers.'

'Stop abuse of children at home, which sends them to the streets and exploitation,' wrote one person from Canada.

'Remove the demand,' wrote another person also from Canada, 'by targeting 'johns'.'

Another respondent, from Jordan, wrote, 'Address poverty and gender discrimination.'

The second question brought in several strong responses.

'All adults must take responsibility, but especially men who can put pressure on other men and show that they are intolerant of exploitative sexual behavior,' wrote one respondent from India, 'This is important because the sexual exploitation of children are both gender crimes and crimes against the child.'

'People in government positions,' said another respondent, from the US, 'Because they are the ones who hold the power to make laws, and can raise worldwide attention to the problem.'

In Canada, one person summed it up as, 'Everyone needs to speak out because silence is equal to denial.'

The last question, elicited this response from Canada, 'Publicize cases to the public so that we can demand to know what is being done for justice.'

'Inform my friends and family regarding this situation, and be active in terms of politics to demand more government action,' said another person from Costa Rica.

'All of us, as professionals, as tourists, as whatever, must take the responsibility, and open our eyes to not accept CSEC and to defend this opinion,' wrote one person from Switzerland.



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From Turkey, one person summed it up with, 'We need to protect our future as children are our future.'

**For further information:**

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**Notes to editors:**

- ECPAT International is a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. For more information, see [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)