

BRIEFING SHEET ABOUT ECPAT

ECPAT stands for “End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes”.

Vision

Realisation of the right of all children to live free of child prostitution, child pornography and child trafficking for sexual purposes.

Mission

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.

History, Structure and Programmes

(http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Who_We_Are/History/index.asp)

ECPAT was established in 1990 as a three-year campaign against commercial sexual exploitation of children in Asia entitled, “End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism”. In 1996, at the First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm, it became evident that CSEC existed and was growing in other regions of the world. Thus, ECPAT became a global network of organisations and individuals working together to eliminate this crime.

ECPAT has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The main thrust of ECPAT is to monitor the Stockholm Agenda for Action, promoting and supporting governments and civil society to take action to end CSEC. Other areas of work include development of network to work on CSEC at national levels, training for caregivers, child and youth participation, prevention of child sex tourism and trafficking, prevention of exploitation of children in cyberspace, and promotion of best law practices in the fight against CSEC and crimes against children.

ECPAT groups are very diverse, ranging from small groups of individuals to large coalitions of NGOs. Groups have different roles foci depending on the particularities of the country and region in which they operate. ECPAT’s membership reflects the richness and diversity of experience, knowledge and perspectives that arise from working in widely different contexts. To date, ECPAT International has a network of 78 NGOs in 73 countries worldwide.

With its Secretariat - the administrative and coordinating unit of the network- based in Bangkok, Thailand, ECPAT works to build collaboration among civil society actors and the broader child rights community to form a global social movement for protection of children from sexual exploitation.