



ECPAT invites children and youth around the world to have their say at World Congress III

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Bangkok, Thailand - ECPAT International has launched a new tool to enable young people under the age of 25 from around the world to share their experiences and knowledge on sexual exploitation at the upcoming World Congress III (WCIII) against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 25-28 November 2008. The consultation tool is available at http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/Consultation_Tool_II.php

'Consultation with young people is an important part of the preparation process for the World Congress III. However, not all children and youth can physically participate at the Regional Consultations or attend the WC III,' said Junita Upadhyay, Child and Youth Participation Officer, ECPAT International, 'We hope that this new platform encourages participation from wider groups of young people.'

The on-line consultation tool consists of survey questions that focus on the thematic issues of WCIII, including:

- Theme 1: Existing and new forms of sexual exploitation of children
- Theme 2: Legal issues relating to sexual exploitation
- Theme 3: Making policies work well together across sectors
- Theme 4: The role of business, banks and private corporations

Input received before 13 October from children and young people will be shared with experts who will take it into account when writing the Thematic Papers for the World Congress. The inputs will also be used to enhance ECPAT's programmatic work.

As one of the core organizers of the World Congress III, ECPAT is working to provide different channels for young people to share their experiences and knowledge on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). In addition to contributing to WCIII, the consultation tool is also designed to be used in workshops at schools, communities and shelters with children and young people who have the knowledge and experience to contribute to these thematic issues.

For additional information on child and youth participation in combating CSEC, visit the EICYAC website at http://www.eicyac.org/Get_Involved/index.html or ECPAT International's World Congress III website at <http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/youth.php>.

For further information:

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