



**WORLD CONGRESS  
AGAINST SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN  
AND ADOLESCENTS** **III**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
25-28 November 2008

# Learning about

World Congress III

Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

*Questions and Answers for Children and Adolescents*



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Written by: Neha Bhandari

Reviewed by: Clare Feinstein, Junita Upadhyay, Linda Raftree, Lotta Segerstrom and Ravi Karkara

Contributor: Alana Kapell

Graphic Design: Neha Bhandari

## WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

**Sexual exploitation** of children and adolescents means mistreating, abusing and/or taking advantage of a child or adolescent for personal gains, by involving them in sex work or sexual activity which is illegal or inappropriate.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**THE FIRST WORLD CONGRESS WAS HELD IN SWEDEN IN 1996. THE SECOND WORLD CONGRESS WAS HELD IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN IN 2001.**

## What is the “World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents”?

**The World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents** is a meeting taking place from 25-28 November, 2008 in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Many decision makers from all over the world will come together to find ways to stop the exploitation of children and adolescents. Together they will find solutions and commit to taking actions, so that all children and adolescents can realize their rights to health, safety, protection and freedom from harm.

People attending this meeting will include: governments, UN agencies, Non Governmental Organizations, academia, corporations, children and adolescents.

## Why is it important to organize World Congresses against the sexual exploitation of children?

- World Congresses are important events that draw international attention to the serious issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- These important global events, through their preparation processes at national, regional and international levels create a worldwide movement against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- World Congresses help governments and the rest of the society in becoming more responsible in addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.



## 1st World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Stockholm, Sweden  
August 27- 31 1996

## What happened at World Congress I and World Congress II?

17 young people participated in World Congress I. This was the first time young people were invited to participate in this type of global meeting together with governments, Non Governmental Organizations and UN agencies.

**World Congress I** was held in 1996 in Stockholm, Sweden. For the first time leaders, governments, United Nations agencies, Non Governmental Organizations and young people came together for a global meeting on the sexual exploitation of children. 122 countries agreed to change relevant laws, policies, programmes and practices to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in all its forms, while protecting the rights of child victims and not further harming them. Governments also committed themselves to actively involve children and adolescents in this process. This commitment is part of what is called the **Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action (1996)**.

In the **Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action** to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children, 122 countries promised to focus on -

- Coordination and cooperation at regional and international levels,
- Giving education and information to girls and boys, their families and society to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children,
- Make new laws and strengthen old ones, if they exist, to protect children,
- Help child victims and their families to recover and help them to live safely and comfortably again in their communities,
- Participation of children, including child victims, young people, their families, peers, and others who are potential helpers of children.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



**The World Congress II** was held in Yokohama, Japan in 2001. Governments, United Nations agencies, Non Governmental Organizations and other organisations reviewed what had been done since the first meeting in 1996. In this second meeting, 161 countries committed to the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action. Children and adolescent's voices came out very strongly at the World Congress II and concluded with young people coming up with their own Declaration and the Yokohama Youth Appeal. (You can download it from [http://www.csecworldcongress.org/PDF/en/Yokohama/Outcome\\_documents/Young%20People%20Final%20Appeal%20in%20Yokohama.pdf](http://www.csecworldcongress.org/PDF/en/Yokohama/Outcome_documents/Young%20People%20Final%20Appeal%20in%20Yokohama.pdf))

**Nearly 100 young people participated in the World Congress II, including, for the first time, young survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. They played an active role.**

### **Mid-Term Reviews in 2004-2005**

Mid Term Reviews were held in each region throughout 2004 and 2005. Mid Term Reviews help us see what has happened since World Congress I and World Congress II in Stockholm and Yokohama. Governments, Non Governmental Organizations and young people participated in these reviews.

Now its time for **World Congress III and preparations have begun!**

## Where is it going to be held?

World Congress III is being hosted by Government of Brazil. It will be held in Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 28 November 2008.

## Who will lead the World Congress III?

The World Congress will be led by the Government of Brazil and its co-organizers, who are UNICEF, ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## What is the purpose of World Congress III?

The idea of World Congress III is to get countries to come together to see what has been done to stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents since the last meeting in 2001. At the same time,

- It is important to learn from success stories and look at new challenges. Based on this, countries and organizations will make new commitments to stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- This will create open communication on important issues between key decision makers. This will help them work better together.
- In the meeting, they will also set in motion approaches to ensure that they can meet their goals within an agreed period of time.

The overall purpose of the meeting is to learn from each other and move forward with a better understanding of the issue with more ideas for action on all the **five themes** of the World Congress.

## There are 5 important “THEMES” that will be discussed at the World Congress III. These are as follows:

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 Different Sectors - such as the police and the justice system

Theme 4: The Role of Businesses, Banks and Corporations

Theme 5: Governments, Organizations and Groups working together at the International Level (for example: cross border crimes)

**Theme 1**  
**Existing and New forms of sexual exploitation of children** such as trafficking in children for sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in prostitution and tourism, pedophilia and pornography, Internet crimes and new technologies (To get a better understanding of these words, download the brochure 'What Is commercial sexual exploitation of children? Definitions for Young People' from <http://www.eicyac.org/Resources/PDF/Child%20Friendly%20Definitions%20CSEC.pdf>)

**Theme 2**  
**Legal issues relating to sexual exploitation** include revision of the law on sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in various countries, implementation of those laws, setting up procedures for special investigation and so on.

**Theme 3**  
**Making Policies work well together across sectors** means that various government departments at different levels, including the justice system and police, are able to work together to end the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

**Theme 4**  
**The Role of Businesses, Banks and Corporations** means that the private sector is promoting good ways of doing business that helps society, and which, in particular, help to end the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

**Theme 5**  
**Governments, Organizations and Groups working together at the international level** means that various agencies working to end the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents come together to stop cross-border crimes, share information and follow up on the commitments made at previous World Congresses.

# CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PARTICIPATION AT WORLD CONGRESS III

## Why are we inviting children and adolescents to participate at the World Congress?

World Congress III is inviting children and adolescents to share their experiences and knowledge on the issues.

The idea is to focus on solutions that children and adolescents have to offer rather than their personal experiences of abuse and exploitation.

Children and adolescents will be able to show and promote how their participation is crucial to stopping sexual exploitation.

## In what ways can children and adolescents get involved in World Congress III?

What children and adolescents have to share on the issue of sexual exploitation is very crucial for this meeting. It will inform and influence the discussions and the end result of the meeting.

Children and adolescent's views and their suggestions will be included in important preparation papers as well as the outcome document of World Congress III.

As in past World Congresses, children and adolescents will be active participants in the meeting. They will have the opportunity to be involved in the following ways:

**1. National meetings:** These meetings will help children and adolescents prepare for World Congress III. In these meetings children and adolescents will be able to discuss issues that are relevant to their particular country. These meetings are only being held in some countries. For more information go to:  
[www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII](http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII)  
[www.csecworldcongress.org/](http://www.csecworldcongress.org/)

**2. Regional Meetings.** In most regions, children will be selected or elected to take part in their regional meeting. In other regions where national /regional meetings are not being held, children and adolescents will still be invited to take part in the World Congress III.

In this meeting they will be able to discuss issues which are most important in their particular region. Please see the section below "Important dates to remember" for a list of all regional meetings that will be taking place. For more information go to:  
[www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII](http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII)  
[www.csecworldcongress.org/](http://www.csecworldcongress.org/)

**3. Thematic Meetings**  
There will also be special meetings on the five themes of the World Congress. Participants in these meetings will be asked to pay special attention to what children and adolescents have said about sexual exploitation in previous meetings and consultations.

**4. Online Consultation Tool and Web Platform:** Children and adolescents can share their views on the preparation of the World Congress and its themes, by going to

**CHECK THIS OUT!**

[http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/youth\\_consult.php](http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/youth_consult.php)

**In October 2008, children and adolescents can also connect up with each other on issues relating to the World Congress through a new web platform. Get more information by visiting Congress Website:**  
[www.iiicongressomundial.com](http://www.iiicongressomundial.com)

**5. Preparatory Forum:** This is a special meeting that will take place right before the World Congress, to prepare children and adolescents for World Congress III and its side events.

**6. World Congress III:** During World Congress III children and adolescents will take part in the opening and closing sessions, panel discussions and workshops, side events (such as exhibits, interacting with the media and cultural programmes) and in discussions and plans for follow up and next steps.

7. Children and adolescents will also be active participants in the **follow up activities**, after World Congress III.

## Which children and adolescents will participate in the World Congress?

*Around 300 children and adolescents will participate in the World Congress III, with around 150 young participants coming from Brazil and around 150 young participants coming from other countries and regions of the world.*

The meeting will most benefit children and adolescents who understand the issue and who have solutions to share based on their own knowledge and work. Children and adolescents will NOT be asked to share their own painful experiences.

The idea is to involve children and adolescents who are at-risk or are survivors of sexual exploitation and who are now directly involved in stopping this problem, through their networks, shelters, schools and communities, as well as other children and adolescents actively involved in work to stop sexual exploitation.

Countries around the world will select or elect children and adolescents to participate in the 'Regional Meetings'. In these regional meetings, children and adolescents will get a chance to share their views on regional issues and problems. These will be brought forward to the World Congress III.

In the regional meetings, the children and adolescents will select or elect among themselves those who will represent them at the World Congress III. Children and adolescents will be encouraged to feed back to groups that they belong to and support follow up activities.

It is important that an equal number of girls and boys, from different backgrounds (such as children with disabilities, rural/urban, in school/out of school, adolescents from different cultures and so on) have an opportunity to be part of these meetings. Participants will be between 12-18 years of age.

## Who supports the child and adolescent participants?

The Central Organizing Committee of the World Congress III has set up a Children and Adolescent Participation Commission. This Commission is responsible for making sure that children and adolescents can participate in a meaningful and comfortable way in World Congress III. The Government of Brazil, ECPAT, Save the Children, Plan International and UNICEF and other organisations are members of this group. They will be helped by many Non Governmental Organizations in other countries and regions who will also support child and adolescent participation in World Congress III.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### THESE ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT MEETINGS THAT HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE, AND THOSE WHICH ARE UPCOMING

#### **Regional Meetings**

- 18-19 August 2008, *The East Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting*, Bangkok, Thailand
- 20-21 August 2008, *Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting*, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 27-29 August, 2008, *South Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting*  
Kathmandu, Nepal
- 23- 25 September 2008 (Children's Forum, 22 September), *Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting*, Dakar, Senegal
- 17-18 *European Regional Consultation*, Geneva, Switzerland

#### **Thematic Meetings**

- 21 April 2008, *A Child Rights Approach to Trafficking – Lessons from Research*, Florence, Italy,
- 22 April 2008, *Preventing the Sexual exploitation in Travel and Tourism – Learning from the Private Sector and the Community in Implementing International Standards*, Florence, Italy
- June 2008, *Meeting of Nin@asur working group of Human Rights Authorities*, Argentina
- 5-7 August 2008, *Thematic meeting on engaging men and boys in preventing sexual exploitation and violence*, Mexico
- 14–15 August 2008, *Manifestations of commercial sexual exploitation of children – (Theme 1 child pornography )*, Bangkok, Thailand
- 4-6 September, 2008, *Intrafamilial violence and sexual exploitation*, Hong Kong
- September 2008, *Asian consultation on child sex tourism, during the ASEAN RTM, During the 2008 ASEAN Regional Taskforce Meeting*, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 25-26 September 2008, *Inter-sectoriality and Child Rights Guarantee System, Role of the private sector and corporate social responsibility*, Winnipeg, Canada
- 13–14 October 2008, *A Consultation on Legal Frameworks, Procedure and Enforcement Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents*, Bern/Zurich, Switzerland
- 14-18 October 2008, *“Children as victims and witnesses. A questions of law and of rights”*, Sion, Switzerland
- 20-21 October 2008, *Expert meeting on “International Cooperation for preventing and responding to sexual exploitation of children and adolescent: the role of international actors and Donor”* Florence, Italy,
- Dates to be announced: *Promoting social change for prevention of sexual exploitation*,
- Dates to be announced: *Sexual exploitation in conflict and post-conflict situations*
- Dates to be announced: *“Developing a Protective Framework: the Role of Parliamentarians to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents” - Regional Parliamentary Seminar – focus on CEE/CIS*, Switzerland

**Adolescent Preparatory Forum, 23-24** November 2008, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**World Congress III, 25-28** November, 2008, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To know more about violence against children, you can read the following:

- *The United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children: Adapted for Children and Young People*  
[www.violencestudy.org/r245](http://www.violencestudy.org/r245)
- *ECPAT International Youth Partnership Project against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Good Practices*  
[www.ecpat.net/EI/PDF/CYP/Good\\_Practices\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.ecpat.net/EI/PDF/CYP/Good_Practices_ENG.pdf)
- *Our Right to be Protected from Violence. Activities for Learning and Taking Action for Children and Young People*  
[www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/Our\\_Right\\_to\\_be\\_Protected\\_from\\_Violence-2.pdf](http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/Our_Right_to_be_Protected_from_Violence-2.pdf)
- *Safe you and Safe Me, Save the Children's Contribution to the UN Study on Violence against Children*  
[www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/safeyoufinal.pdf](http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/safeyoufinal.pdf)
- *Children's Actions to End Violence Against Girls and Boys, Save the Children's Contribution to the UN Study on Violence against Children*  
[www.rb.se/NR/rdonlyres/FAAC13B4-D0E9-43FF-859F-DCD148A554D2/0/3293Actionrapportwebb.pdf](http://www.rb.se/NR/rdonlyres/FAAC13B4-D0E9-43FF-859F-DCD148A554D2/0/3293Actionrapportwebb.pdf)

<http://blog.stopx.org>

The Youth Portal will be launched in October

[www.EICYAC.org](http://www.EICYAC.org)

ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee's (EICYAC) website for more information.

If you would still like to know more about World Congress III and child and adolescent participation within it, you should contact the office of the following organizations in your country or region: ECPAT, Save the Children, Plan International, UNICEF

[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

[www.savethechildren.net](http://www.savethechildren.net)

[www.plan-international.org](http://www.plan-international.org)

[www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

You should also see the World Congress's website

[www.iiicongressomundial.com](http://www.iiicongressomundial.com)