

# ECPAT FACT SHEET



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. The ECPAT network comprises of ECPAT groups in more than 80 countries around the world. The acronym ECPAT stands for “End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes.”

## What is commercial sexual exploitation of children?



Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) happens when a child (anyone under the age of 18) is abused sexually by someone who pays to do this with money, gifts or favours. When a child is sexually abused in exchange for money, gift or favours, people might think the child has agreed to sell their body. But a child in this situation is influenced by a person/persons into doing things they would not normally do. The important thing to remember is that children do not choose to be commercially sexually exploited. Children are tricked, pressured, threatened or forced into it. Many people mistakenly believe that children are commercially sexually exploited by paedophiles. However, paedophiles are only a very small proportion of the exploiters. There is actually no common profile, and the perpetrators sexually exploiting children may be young, old, married, single, male or female, come from all kinds of socio-economic backgrounds and work in all kinds of professions. There are three primary and interrelated forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children: prostitution, pornography and trafficking for sexual purposes. Other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children include child sex tourism, child marriages and forced marriages.

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# What does ECPAT do?

ECPAT International works globally to help civil society, NGOs, caregivers, policy makers, legislators, law enforcers and all those who are trying to combat these crimes against children. ECPAT has the following programmes:



- Combating Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
- Combating Child-Sex Tourism
- Preventing Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet and through New Communication Technologies
- Promoting Law Enforcement and Good Law Practices
- Care and Protection of Child Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Child and Youth Participation
- Information and Educational Resources

## How can you address this issue?

- **Learn about commercial sexual exploitation of children**

Use information from the ECPAT's publications and website to learn and understand about commercial sexual exploitation of children and spread awareness to your co-workers, community, students and government officials, especially emphasising prevention

- **Advocate the government**

Notify and advocate local government representatives to push for a national plan of action and laws protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation of children and to enforce these laws; and for children who are victims to receive proper care and protection and are not criminalised. Also, to utilise extra-territorial legislation on foreign child sex offenders who travel to commit their crimes.

- **Encourage the private sector**

Seek the involvement of private sector companies, such as the tourism sector, to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children. For instance, urge your local internet service provider to have child protection policies online in place.

- **Work with the media**

Urge the media to take responsibility in presenting news and information about the commercial sexual exploitation of children and to monitor and evaluate images released in the media, such as newspapers and magazines. If there are inappropriate images that violate children's rights, please report it to the police or ECPAT

- **Reporting**

Please help us report illegal activities of commercial sexual exploitation of children to the police or national hotline (1300) or report to ECPAT at [protect@ecpat.net](mailto:protect@ecpat.net)