

“What is needed now is concerted effort on the part of organizations and religious groups in Thailand and elsewhere in Asia to create the moral outrage needed to force a change in attitude at all levels and to enforce the existing legislation which prohibits prostitution.

Although the idea of attacking child prostitution is an extremely ambitious one...the time has come for concerted action between concerned groups in Asia and indeed throughout the world.”

Florence Bruce
International Catholic Child Bureau



ECPAT

The international campaign to End
Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism

is supported and promoted by
several Asian organizations
including: The Christian Conference of
Asia; the Federation of Asian Bishops'
Conferences, Office for Human development
and the Ecumenical Coalition on
Third World Tourism.

International supporters
include UNICEF and
International Catholic Child Bureau.

Offices in Colombo, Sri Lanka;
Manila, Philippines; Stuttgart, Germany;
Auckland, New Zealand;
Taipei, Taiwan

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Child Prostitution

The growth of a modern slave trade



Destroy the Children?

Two years ago social workers in the north of Thailand noted a disturbing fact. Where rural villages had once been full of children's laughter now it was possible to drive through villages and never see children. Workers in rural Philippines spoke of a similar situation.

The Bangkok-based Ecumenical Coalition for Third World Tourism commissioned field research and uncovered the shocking truth: children were being sold or abducted into prostitution to meet the increasing demand of Western tourists! This had escalated to the point where several hundred thousand children were involved.

Paedophilia has received little public attention. It describes those people (mostly men) whose preferred sexual object is a young child. Most paedophiles are from middle-class, religiously-conservative, professional backgrounds. Well organized paedophile organizations in the United States, Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand have regular groups of sextourists visiting Asian countries. For a few dollars they can indulge their fantasies with actions which would earn them a prison sentence back home.

Not only are children being bought and sold as commodities but recent studies have shown many cases of abduction, physical abuse, child suicide and a marked increase in the number of children testing HIV positive in AIDS' tests.

Or give them life?

Many Asian social agencies were shocked to learn the extent of trade in their children and have joined to form an international coalition whose aim will be to end this new form of child slavery. This year (1991) they have launched a three-year campaign to end tourism-related child prostitution in four Asian countries: Thailand, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

The programme includes legal and political action which will make it difficult or impossible to continue the trade in children and will focus world attention on the need to protect children from molestation from tourists. The programme was introduced to the Heads of State, Summit for Children in New York, October 1990 and there many expressed sympathy with the objectives.

A key part of the strategy is to make the facts public in tourist-sending countries so that there will be enough moral outrage to bring changes in the behaviour of tourists.

We invite concerned groups and individuals to join us in this programme. Financial contributions will go toward the national actions required to stop child prostitution as well as assisting in rehabilitation of those children who have been caught in the web of child prostitution. A regular newsletter giving information on the campaign will be sent to supporters.

Please fill in the form opposite... 

✓ *Yes!*

Please list me as a person who is concerned about child prostitution, especially that caused by tourists. I am willing to support the international campaign.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Donation enclosed \$ _____

All contributions will be acknowledged
Make checks payable to ECPAT. (Any
rency)

Send to:

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The small bud is easily broken.
From the soil,
new flowers are nurtured.



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OUR REF :

ECPAT Resource List

The following resource materials are available at ECPAT, especially at the International Office in Bangkok:

Books

1. The Child and the Tourist, 1992, by Ron O'Grady; 152 pp. US\$11.- a concise account of the problem of child prostitution as it relates to tourism; containing many concrete stories, facts and figures.
2. Children in Prostitution: Victims of Tourism in Asia, 1992, edited by Ron O'Grady; 66 pp. US\$10.- A report and proceedings of a major international conference held in Bangkok as part of the campaign to end child prostitution in Asian tourism.
3. Caught in Modern Slavery: Tourism and Child Prostitution in Asia, 1991. Edited by Koson Srisang; 108 pp. US\$12.- Report and proceedings of the Chiang Mai consultation (May 1990) where research findings of the studies on "tourism and child prostitution" in Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines were reported. This conference led to the decision to launch the ECPAT campaign.

Other documents/Publications

4. ECPAT Newsletter, a quarterly publication to share news and updates on the ECPAT campaign. You may request to be on the mailing list.

Please place your order to ECPAT
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