



# FACTS ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF TOURISTS IN THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF FILIPINO CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURIST DESTINATIONS

**“The slavery and exploitation of young children in poor countries to serve the passing whims of over-indulged tourists must be one of the most inexcusable acts of modern times.”**

The Child and the Tourist  
Ron O’Grady

Each year, over a million children are exploited in the global sex trade. Most often, this constitute child trafficking, child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourist destinations. The latter is what most refer to as Child Sex Tourism. There are members of certain sectors who object to this term however this information material does not cover the debate on this.

This fact sheet focuses in presenting key points, relevant data and a few case studies out of the many that indicate a clear-cut presence of child sexual exploitation in Philippine travel and tourist destinations.

## WHAT IS CHILD SEX TOURISM?

Child Sex Tourism or CST is the commercial sexual exploitation of children by men or women who travel from one place to another, usually from a richer country to one that is less developed, and there engage in sexual acts with children, defined as anyone under 18 years of age.

Along with child prostitution, pornography and sex trafficking, CST in particular is a lucrative and ubiquitous practice affecting an estimated 2 million children worldwide every year. CST is especially prevalent in Asia, and Central and South America.



While the crisis is more pronounced in the aforementioned regions, tourists from nearly every country in the world fuel the sex industry and the demand for young children.

Today, the number of children who are victims of sex tourism continues to rise. Although child sex tourism has existed for decades, the practice has exploded in recent years due in large part to the rapid globalization of trade and the growth of the tourism industry. Additionally, inter-linked social and technological factors such as lack of education, discrimination against girl-children, widespread poverty, poor law enforcement, political corruption, and advances in information sharing through the internet have exacerbated the problem.

## Nationalities of Buyers of Sex In Boracay Island

The most frequently mentioned tourists who engage in the activity of procuring girls’ sexual services in Boracay Island are male tourists coming from Korea. They also constitute the largest number of foreign tourists who visited Boracay in 2005 and 2006.

Other buyers of sex identified by the study\* come from Japan, France, Germany, England, China, Sweden, and the US, as well as local or Filipino men. In addition, there are also local and foreign gay tourists who seek young boys as sexual partners.

\*A STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF TOURISM ON CHILDREN IN BORACAY. ECPAT PHILIPPINES, 2007

## ●●● Dutch Nationals in Child Sex Tourism Cases

The prevalence of child sex tourism is unknown. But there is data to indicate that Dutch sex tourists travel regularly to Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, as well as outside of Asia, including Brazil, Morocco and The Gambia. The following information has been collected from a variety of press releases and news articles:

October 1996 – Johann Van Der Scheer, 43, was convicted for sex offenses against girls as young as 12 years old, while on holiday in the Philippines. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

January 1997 – Thomas Breuer, a German, and Dutch national Lennart Van Empel, 24, were convicted of child sexual abuse and sentenced to prison terms of three and a half years and two years, respectively. Breuer was tried in Iserlohn and Van Empel charged in The Hague.

They were found guilty of child sexual abuse against two Filipino girls (aged 12 and 14 years old). The two men took the girls, originally from Subic in Olongapo, to Boracay, where they sexually abused them and videotaped the abuse.

Provided that Tourism is not the primary cause for the sexual exploitation of children to happen, it is revealed however that sex offenders commit their crime in popular tourist destinations. The following cases and stories tell us.

### Puerto Galera, Mindoro

Paul Jeffrey Anderson was arrested in February 28, 2005 in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro on charges of rape and incidental assault of minors. He was 55 at the time of his arrest. The rape case filed against the American national was a result of reports received from Filipina girls, between 8 and 13 years old, who claimed that they had been sexually abused by Anderson and his German friend, Rainer Fohrenhorst, 71.

Fohrenhorst committed suicide in March 14, 2005, leaving Anderson to singly face the rape charges filed against him by 13 children from Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

### Malate, Manila

**The Story of Elsa.** Elsa was 16 years old when she was recruited in her hometown in Davao to work as an entertainer in Japan. Transported to Manila, Elsa was housed among other girls and women whom were held under strict and inhumane conditions. She was forced to work as a Guest Relations Officer in a bar in Malate, Manila which caters to Japanese tourists and expats. Here, Elsa found herself being forced to provide sexual services to clients. However she was fortunate to have been able to seek aid and intervention which resulted to a rescue effort and her withdrawal from the illegal operation.

### Boracay Island

**The Story of Mai-Mai.** At 15 years of age, Mai-Mai had already suffered sexual abuse from her employer for whom she worked as a housemaid. She left this employer and arrived in Boracay when she was 17, working for a Muslim from Davao. They had an agreement that she would work in his store; however, she ended up doing other chores as well, such as taking care of his children and doing housework. She wasn't treated well by her employer and his family; eventually, Mai-Mai left them and stayed with three friends who she had met in Boracay.

She had neither enough clothes nor savings when she left. Soon after, Mai-Mai had a Filipino boyfriend and lived with him for two months. When they broke up, Mai-Mai started getting active in the sex trade.

It all began when a friend introduced her to a Korean customer in a bar in Boracay. Mai-Mai works as a freelancer, although sometimes, she gets her customers through pimps who also work as tour guides or guards in the hotels on the island. The pimps get 500 pesos out of what she earns.

Mai-Mai works in the trade at an average of three days a week, servicing one or two customers per night. Her clients are usually Koreans, Japanese and Filipinos. Her income goes to paying rent, buying clothes and food. She has no savings, in spite of her desire to save money for her siblings and aunt. She is afraid of getting sick with no family around to take care of her. She hopes to be able to quit prostitution some day and put up a small store and be with her family.



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