

Case Study

A Dutch man jailed for child abuse

In April 2004, a Dutch man was arrested accused of committing indecent acts against children and producing child pornography. The man had adopted seven homeless boys, promising food and water. On various occasions, the man paid the children between US\$ 2.50 and US\$ 5.00 for illicit sexual contacts. He also took pornographic photos of them whilst they were staying with him at the Kirirom resort and in Kampot. Initially, the Municipal Court dismissed the case citing insufficient evidence. However, the Appeal Court reviewed the case against him and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment and ordered him to pay 1 million riels as compensation to each victim. In February 2009, the Supreme Court upheld the Appeal Court's decision.

ECPAT International

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. ECPAT has affiliates and national groups in more than 70 countries. It seeks to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights, free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

ECPAT-Cambodia

ECPAT-Cambodia is an NGO network established in 1995. It is a network of national and international organisations working to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It consists of 28 member organisations working together to ensure that children everywhere in the country enjoy their fundamental rights, and are free and secure from all kinds of sexual abuse and exploitation. For more information please see:

www.ecpat.net
www.ecpatcambodia.org

The Leaflet developed and printed with funding support from Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Who are the victims and what consequences do they incur?

Travelling sex offenders generally exploit the most vulnerable in a society. Child victims often come from poor marginalised communities.

Often minors who are caught up in prostitution are forced to behave as if they have chosen this work "voluntarily." Resistance to sexual exploitation is often met with violence; they are often drugged or have previously been abused. Child victims often suffer severe physical and mental trauma. The physical violence involved in sexual exploitation results in injury, pain and fear whilst the acute psychological repercussions of sexual abuse often result in guilt, low self esteem, severe depression and sometimes suicide. Children who are sexually abused and exploited are highly vulnerable to infection with HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Sexual exploitation of children is a crime in Cambodia.

Cambodia's Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation states that purchasing sex with minors in Cambodia is punishable with between 2 and 15 years imprisonment. Sexual abuse and production of pornography involving children is punishable with between 1 to 10 years imprisonment and fines. Committing an indecent act against another person aged less than 15 years shall be punished with imprisonment from 1 to 3 years and a fine from 2,000,000 to 6,000,000 riels. Tourists convicted of sexual abuse of minors also face deportation and punishment in their own countries.

What can YOU do? Act! Do not look away!

At Home: ask your travel agent whether they have signed the "Code for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism"

In Cambodia: Should you receive offers or notice something suspicious:

- Report the incident to your hotel and travel guide/ agent
- Inform your embassy/ consulate in Cambodia
- Report the incident to:
 - The national police hotline: **023 997 919**
 - Siem Reap: **017 258 222**
 - Prahshihanouk: **017 259 222**
- Report by e-mail to: protect@ecpat.net

Travel with Care

Care for Children

The commercial sexual exploitation is a grave violation of children's rights

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is defined as "sexual abuse by an adult and remuneration in cash or kind to child or a third person or persons." Child victims are objectified as sexual and commercial objects. It is a form of coercion and violence against children, amounting to forced labour and a modern form of sexual slavery.

The main forms of commercial sexual exploitation are child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

Child-sex tourism involves internal and international visitors travelling to a place where they pay for sexual contacts with children.

Who are the perpetrators?

In Cambodia, perpetrators of child-sex tourism are both Cambodian citizens travelling internally and international travellers. A perpetrator of child-sex abuse is anyone who harms a child sexually; they may be of any gender, age or nationality. All child-sex offenders exploit a child's vulnerability for their own pleasure and cause devastation to the child victim's life.

What rights do children have?

Cambodia is a signatory nation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states every child has a basic inalienable right to life, healthcare, protection, education and development. A child has a right to be protected from abuse and exploitation.

Help prevent sexual exploitation of children and young people in travel and tourism