



ECPAT NZ INC

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From the Chairperson

The commercial sexual exploitation of children takes many forms, ranging from kidnapping and trafficking for sexual exploitation, to pornography sites on the internet, to commercial sex work on the streets. In some places children grow up surrounded by child sexual abuse or commercial sexual activity while other children know so little about it that they are easy prey for sexual predators.

In 1996, for the first time in history, Government leaders from around the world made a commitment to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm.

The Declaration and Agenda for Action were adopted in the hope that the complexity of the problem of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and its causes could be intervened, tackled and solved.

Unfortunately the sexual abuse of children here at home in New Zealand, in the Pacific, and in nations around the world continues.

The ECPAT fight to strengthen legal frameworks, empower law enforcement, and support the prevention, protection, recovery and reintegration of children from commercial sexual exploitation into family and community life still rages - an important part of this struggle is the role ECPAT plays in preparation for a Third World Congress, to be held next year.

The Christmas season is almost upon us, and I'm reminded of the birth of the child Jesus and his message of love for all children to live safely in this world. Thank you for your contribution and support, to help make things safer for children everywhere.

*Maureen Crombie
Chairperson*

Annual Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of ECPAT New Zealand Inc was held in Ponsonby, Auckland Friday October 26 with a good number of supporters present.

The present Board was re-elected with Maureen Crombie continuing as Chair, Kevin Clapperton (Treasurer), Miriam Saphira (Secretary), and members, Serafin Dillon, Yvonne Dufaur, Ron O'Grady and Janet Whitehead.

Alan Bell is continuing as interim Director and there were many expressions of appreciation for

his work and also for Sophie Macpherson who is coordinating the work in the office and Jack Ma who maintains the financial records.

The meeting also expressed gratitude to a number of volunteers who assist with so many on-going tasks in the office. We operate the office on a minimal budget so we welcome any help from our friends and supporters. The Board has interviewed a number of potential candidates for the position of Director and is hopeful that an appointment will be made in the near future.

Choose With Care

“Choose with Care” is an innovative programme developed by our ECPAT friends in Australia. It educates participants about the dynamics of sex offending, child safe organisations, risk management, managing complaints, recruitment, selection and screening. These topics are covered in great depth with questions answered on the spot. In addition participants work on case studies and contribute to the presentation with personal examples. It is a very exciting programme.

In October ECPAT New Zealand held three Choose With Care workshops; in Tauranga, New Plymouth and Whangarei. The feedback on participants' forms show that they have become more aware of how to run a child safe organisation, and many of them will be implementing the ideas they have received by updating child protection policies in their organisations. The guest speakers from Australia, Bernadette McMenamin and Karen Flanagan are now conducting these programs throughout Australia, Asia and parts of the Pacific and it is hoped that New Zealand will join this circuit and have more Choose with Care programmes next year.

ECPAT New Zealand thanks Bernadette and Karen for their excellent work and enthusiasm during all workshops and looks forward to future projects. Thanks also to Alan Bell, Sophie Macpherson and Jack Ma from the Auckland office, Ria, Lisa and Karen from AUT University and many others who contributed to the organisation and coordination of the workshops.



Speaking for Ourselves

The results of a study into the activities of underage prostitution will be completed before long. Initiated by our advocacy project worker, Serafin Dillon, the report gives an in-depth account of thirteen underage prostitutes operating in New Zealand.

The report will highlight the “serious need” for emergency accommodation where minors can be taken to escape at-risk situations. In the longer term there is a need for housing for minors who want to exit prostitution.

The report will also stress the inadequacy of services for young people who have been exploited through prostitution and the need for relevant government and NGO agencies to take more responsibility in assisting exploited children. It will suggest possible protocols that can be developed to guide those who are working in this area.

The full report will expand many of these issues and is an important document for our present time. We express our thanks to Serafin and her assistants in producing this timely report.

Cook Islands Report

ECPAT New Zealand, in cooperation with the local organisation Punanga Tautara have just completed a report on child sex abuse in the Cook islands. It was released at an international Conference convened by UNESCAP held in Fiji November 19-21.

As expected, the report showed that children most at risk are those whose home life is peppered with alcohol abuse, violence, parental neglect and lack of parental supervision. Underlying factors that contribute to the risk of CSEC and child sexual abuse include financial hardship, the inability to afford basic daily needs, peer pressure, and a cycle of abuse and neglect already present in the family.

The report revealed serious problems in reporting child sexual abuse because of the lack of confidence in the local police and because the present law is inadequate to meet many of the situations.

ECPAT New Zealand plans to continue assisting Punanga Tautara in the Cook Islands as it works to end all forms of child sexual abuse.

12% of all websites are pornographic
100,000 web-sites offer child pornography
90% of 8-16 yr olds have viewed porn online (USA)

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

The international growth in child pornography continues to be of grave concern. Recent US Customs report estimated that the sale of child pornography generates about three billion dollars annually

Certainly the number of arrests in New Zealand for the crime of possessing or trading child pornography continues to increase and it has become a constant conflict between the computer skills of law enforcement officers against the wiles of child pornographers. In New Zealand we are fortunate that the Department of Internal Affairs has a full-time dedicated team of experts who monitor these developments and secure convictions. Their excellent record includes at least one conviction in the courts every two weeks.

ECPAT New Zealand has been a strong supporter of the DIA for many years and is now planning to develop a new co-operative programme which will include establishing a confidential hotline-

www.reportchildporn.org.nz

This will be a channel through which people can report any instances of child pornography they come across when surfing the web.

There are still a number of issues to be resolved with this programme but if all goes well it is our expectation that we will be able to launch the site early next year



He calls himself "The Son of God"

Timothy Cox, age 26 years worked in his family microbrewery business in England. Every spare moment he locked himself in his bedroom. With sophisticated computers he ran an internet site which contained unbelievably shocking images of child sex abuse. His computer contained 75,960 images of children being abused.

He called himself Son of God because he took over an American child pornography web-site run by a 49-year old man from Tennessee. This man had the web name G.O.D. When he was arrested through the diligence of Canadian police in 2006, Cox decided to step into the niche and launched his own site with the user-name Son_of_God.

In a short time he had attracted more than 700 users from all over the world including 200 in his own country. He used many tricks to conceal his identity and location but once again the Canadians discovered the site and a period of covert surveillance followed. When he moved away from his computer, the police moved in and stopped him erasing the evidence on the hard drive. The police then posed as Cox for 10 days and were able to identify many of the pornographers and also a number of the children being abused. Fortunately a number of the children have already been identified and been given counselling and assistance.

REPORT CHILD SEX

Eighteen months ago ECPAT New Zealand launched a new website called www.reportchildsex.com the first website for online reporting of child sex tourism. New Zealand tourists were urged to report any incidence of sexual abuse of children by other tourists. The materials advertising this site were given to many tourism groups throughout New Zealand although some organisations were reluctant to distribute them.

Despite this there have been reports to the website and to our surprise a growing number of international tourists have been clicking onto the site. When you google "reportchildsex" the web page jumps out and has now been used many times. Reports have been received about tourists seeking child sex in Asia, Latin America, Africa and even Europe. These reports are always screened and forwarded to the relevant law enforcement agencies and in some cases the ECPAT group in that country.

ECPAT plans to develop new partnerships with various groups in the tourism industry. It has success-

fully negotiated with the government regarding the travel advisory website www.safetravel.govt.nz. This site gives full information about New Zealand laws governing child sex abuse by tourists and also refers to the ECPAT site for reporting such crimes.

Tourism boards in many countries warn tourists against the sexual abuse of children.

Samples from Costa Rica (top)
Australia (Centre) Thailand (below)



Legal Issues

Next year, New Zealand has to report to the United Nations on its implementation of the requirements in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is always a reflective time for the government and a chance for NGOs to put pressure on the government to ensure that all the requirements of the Convention are met.

There will be considerable discussion about the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution which is a special piece of international law introduced to protect children's rights to be free from sexual exploitation. It was signed by the New Zealand government in 2000 but is still not ratified.

ECPATNZ continues to monitor government actions and especially the work of monitoring the Prostitution Reform Act signed 4 years ago. There is concern that this new law should not be used to encourage younger children to become prostitutes. (See next section)

Initiatives by parliamentarians and others to establish a national Paedophile Register have also been supported by ECPATNZ. While recognizing that such an action will require a great number of safeguards to ensure its effective use, there are many obvious reasons why paedophiles in this country should continue to be monitored after their release from detention.

The NZ Government Plan of Action



The New Zealand government presented their National Plan of Action to combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children at the world congress in 2001. Since then there has been very little follow up. On the initiative of ECPAT the government finally produced a Stocktake of the Plan which was released in May of last year, titled "Protecting Our Innocence", the report indicated that much more action is needed to help protect our children.

There has been little progress this year in implementing the recommendations of either the Plan or the Stocktake. There is still no satisfactory mechanism for monitoring what is happening and little coordination between the many government and NGO organizations seeking solutions.

Hopefully, the announcement that there is to be a Third World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Brazil, November 2008 will spur the government to do more to protect children from abusers.

ECPAT International is a family of organisations in 70 countries around the world who support each other in the fight to end child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. In ECPAT New Zealand we are in regular contact with this network and we share their common dream to make this world a safer place for children.

We will work with anyone who shares this dream.



*We wish you happiness at Christmas
and invite you to make a Christmas gift
to support the work we are doing
to protect children all around the world*

Enclosed is my donation of \$.....

Donations over \$5.00 are eligible for tax exemption

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post to ECPAT, PO Box 41 264, St Lukes, Auckland NZ



Protect their Innocence