



ECPAT CHILD ALERT

Preventing the sexual exploitation of children

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Their Protection is in our Hands

The '21st century slave trade'. Three days before her death in September 2007, Dame Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop, used these words to describe the trafficking of children and young people for sexual exploitation. She wanted to find a way for The Body Shop and its customers to bring about positive change and end this global human rights abuse. Millions of children and young people under 18 are trafficked every year. The majority of these minors are affected by sexual exploitation.

Our findings challenge the perception that child sex trade is a phenomenon confined to developing areas of the world, and reveals that children are sexually exploited in virtually all countries of the world. New Zealand is not exempt!

The Body Shop and ECPAT International believe that now is the time for concerted action against child sexual exploitation and are preparing a petition to call for stronger child protection measures to be implemented. This petition will be presented to the United Nations and heads of Governments in August of this year. We invite to you to join us!

The global campaign launched jointly

by The Body Shop and ECPAT to stop sexual exploitation of children is receiving strong endorsement. Over 5 million people globally including over 26,000 New Zealanders have signed the petition supporting our call for action.

You can help in two ways! Visit The Body Shop and purchase a tube of their special hand cream called 'Soft Hands, Warm Heart'. The proceeds from these sales go towards ECPAT's ongoing efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

You can also be part of the petition by signing either in a The Body Shop store or online by clicking on this link www.thebodyshop.com/stop



From Director's Desk

Welcome to another update! We are well aware that many people who read this will be directly or indirectly affected by the disastrous earthquake in Christchurch. In addition to this we have witnessed the awful tragedy in Japan with a shocking loss of life following the tsunami. We share the grief and are particularly conscious of the stress on children. This is a time for extra care and protection to allay their fears. We know too from overseas experience that whenever the social fabric of a society is disturbed by conflict or natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and earthquakes children become more vulnerable and at risk.

In this edition we cover a number of issues that demonstrate other forms of risks for children. We are continually amazed at the heartless attitude of those that sexually abuse our most innocent and vulnerable. As we have mentioned on other occasions our aim is to change attitudes so that in turn behavioural patterns change. The demand for child sex through prostitution, pornography or trafficking must be diminished and we believe this requires a social movement

so that everybody contributes to the safety and well being of children.



Alan Bell
Director

'World's largest paedophile ring 'uncovered'

International police led by a UK team say they shut down the largest internet paedophile ring yet discovered.

This illegal global forum had 70,000 followers at its height, leading to 4,000 intelligence reports being sent to police across 30 countries.

The operation has so far identified 670 suspects and 230 abused children.

Alan Bell, Director of the New Zealand based child rights organisation ECPAT Child ALERT says "For those who doubt the scale of online offending here is proof that strong action needs to be taken to

prevent this form of sexual exploitation of children. All of these children are real and this fact should not be overlooked just because their images appear on the Internet. If offending on this scale was not hidden by secrecy and anonymity there would be an outcry from all reasonable members of society."

The three-year investigation, Operation Rescue, was led by investigators from the UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). Along with the Netherlands and the UK, suspects have been identified in Australia, Italy, Canada, New Zealand and Thailand.

Detectives say 184 people have been arrested - 121 of them were in the UK. To date, 33 have been convicted. Some 60 children have been protected in the UK.

"Although offenders may feel safe this case demonstrates that the authorities have developed techniques that are able to penetrate the devious methods employed to escape detection" states Mr Bell "This milestone case should serve as a strong deterrent to those who choose to flout the law and impose terrible suffering on innocent children."

European Parliament votes to remove offensive images at source

The European Parliament decided in March to remove child pornography images at the source rather than promote web blocking.

Members of the Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee ruled that complete removal "at source" must be the main aim in tackling child pornography online.

The original Commission proposal would have made blocking of child porn websites mandatory for all EU member states, prompting concern among Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who tend to support Internet freedom.

However, this is going too far for some child protection campaigners. "MEPs seem more concerned with the rights of child pornographers than they do with the rights of children who have been sexually abused," said John Carr from the Children's Charities Coalition on Internet Safety.

By Jennifer Baker | IDG News Service

The challenge of ending child abuse is the challenge of breaking the link between adults' problems and children's pain.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Lion Foundation for its generous grant to enable the publication of our newsletters.



CHILD TRAFFICKING AND DNA TESTING

DNA testing is now being used to limit and control child trafficking. Dr. Herawati Sudoyo chief of Indonesia's Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology has stated how the institute has helped police investigations dealing specifically on locating child traffickers and the children themselves.

DNA-ProKids has helped find many missing children by using DNA testing. In Indonesia, the case is critical with tens of thousands of children involved in the sex and child trafficking trade. Hong Kong, Malaysia and the Philippines are big destinations for child traffickers. www.easydna.co.nz/blog

Japan child porn cases surge to record high

Japan's number of known child pornography victims surged by half last year. Data shows a new record in a country where it is legal to possess sexually explicit images of children.

Despite production and distribution being outlawed, Japan is seen as a major global source of child pornography in photo and video form, and authorities have stepped up efforts to contain the problem.

The National Police Agency on Thursday said law enforcers took action in 1,342 child porn cases last year, up 43.5 percent from the previous year, to reach a new record since such data was first compiled

in 2000. A total of 618 children under 18 were recorded as having fallen victim to pornographic exploitation, up 52.6 percent, police said.

Japan and Russia are the only members of the G8 group of industrialised nations where the possession of child porn remains legal. It is banned and subject to penalties in more than 70 countries.

Campaigners this month renewed their calls for the government to clamp down on child pornography.

"As consumption is not criminalized, demand is always going up," said Junko

Miyamoto of non-profit group ECPAT/STOP Japan. "Also, the content of child pornography is getting worse, more cruel."

The head of the Polaris Project, a US-based anti-human trafficking group, last week told Japanese lawmakers that "significant percentages of the images involve children being gagged, bound, tied with ropes or even blindfolded".

Keiji Goto, head of lawyers' group the Forum Against Child Pornography, pointed to growing public support for restricting child porn but said: "The problem is that such voices are not reflected in political decisions."

Fight against child prostitution in Fiji not easy

SAVE The Children Fiji believes that convincing children involved in prostitution to leave the lucrative business would be the biggest challenge it would face.

The organisation said it would also be very difficult to find alternative employment for the child sex workers because of their involvement in prostitution.

As the organisation prepares to embark on pulling out 50 child sex workers off the streets it is also prepared for the obstacles it would face.



Save The Children Fiji chief executive Chandra Shekhar said a survey by the International Labour Organisation last year proved that children are involved in prostitution.

"But what we are trying to do is contact these children and help them find alternative ways of earning money," he said.

"We know that children involved in the sex trade will be hesitant to talk to us and leave the business."

"It's not easy for a person to leave a business where he or she makes more money in one night than by working somewhere else for a small amount."

"For example, if a person makes \$100 a night through prostitution, then that person wouldn't want to work somewhere and earn that same amount in one week."

Mr Shekhar said people involved in prostitution were well aware that it was a business from which they make easy money.

"If the child sex workers talk to us, then our biggest challenge will be to convince them that it's not the value of the money they should think about but their lives and future," he said.

"And no doubt it will also be hard to find alternative forms of employment for these children because of their background."

"People say this and that but they will be reluctant to give these children jobs if they know that they were once involved in prostitution."

The organisation aims to get 50 children out of prostitution by the end of the year and prevent 100 from entering the lucrative business.

Avinesh Gopal, Fiji Times, 07 February, 2011

Youth Participation Projection NZ

A Call for Action !

ECPAT Child ALERT will soon be launching our own Youth Participation Project (YPP) within New Zealand. "Don't Sweep it Under the Rug" is a youth movement that will engage, educate and motivate young people to get involved in the fight against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children through creative means. There

will be a number of ways to get involved including a new awareness raising website, Action Groups, sponsorship opportunities with YPP in Cambodia, a global petition campaign with The Body Shop and other volunteer opportunities.

We are hoping to have this campaign launched mid April with our new website, awareness raising promotion video and first campaign.

If you would like to get involved in this new initiative or to find out more please email youth@ecpat.org.nz

Director Alan Bell says "We are grateful to have Becky Low working with us as our Youth Advisor. Becky carried out a survey last year including focus groups with youth (16-25 years). She discovered a void in the awareness of young people regarding sexual exploitation. However she also found that once the young people were informed they wanted to take action! It is important that youth have the opportunity to learn the facts and to engage with their peers in the fight to protect children."



We believe that young people are legitimate social actors, right holders and will be the next generation who will shape tomorrows society. With their passion, energy and fresh new ideas they are capable of making positive and lasting change in our communities and beyond. Right now with over 1.2 million children and young people being sold, traded, raped, beaten and abused around the world, it's time we as youth took our stand for justice and let our voices be heard. We can no longer continue to sweep this issue under the rug!

Man wanted in NZ for child sex caught in Thailand NZPA, 18 Feburary 2011

A Briton who allegedly fled New Zealand on a stolen passport while on bail for child sex offences here has been arrested in Thailand, Britain's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) agency said.

Roderick William Robinson, 73, was detained in Pattaya on 15 February 2011, having been on the run for 12 years, a local newspaper reported.

The Pattaya paper said Robinson was arrested for child molestation on Valentine's Day in 1998. He left Britain and was arrested again in Australia, for the alleged assault of a nine-year-old girl in Sydney in 1999, when he was bailed pending court hearings.

He failed to appear to answer the charges in 2001 and fled to New Zealand ,where he was arrested for child sex offences allegedly committed here. In November 2009 Robinson left New Zealand, using a stolen passport.

He eventually found his way to Thailand where he was arrested on Tuesday."This time, the Thai police will ensure that he will not have any chance to run away and he will eventually face trial and hopefully justice," the Pattaya newspaper reported.

Internet Filter reveals high numbers seeking child pornography

A government filter to block access to child pornography online has revealed a large number of New Zealanders trying to access illegal sites.

The Department of Internal Affairs, which runs the filter, said the filter is just one part of a multi-agency approach.

"Where we'll able to, we'll identify the host country the site is operating out of and we'll share that with the relevant authorities in that country," said the department's Craig Armitage.

Internal Affairs said it works with police and international authorities to tackle child exploitation.

ONE News, 13 December, 2010

Child abuse porn message 'not getting through'

The deterrence message about child abuse pornography is not being taken on board by the community, the crown and a judge agreed at a former teacher's sentencing in Christchurch recently.

Crown prosecutor Kathy Basire said the courts were seeing a new class of offender.

"General deterrence doesn't seem to be working. The type of person getting caught by the police net is not what you would normally consider criminal. It would seem to be rife throughout the community," she said at the Christchurch District Court sentencing.

Judge David Saunders said the "naming and shaming" of offenders had a real deterrent effect in these cases, rather than

the prospect of terms of imprisonment.

The 40-year-old married man was a high school teacher in Canterbury but had since given up teaching and was working as a cleaner.

Defence counsel Tony Greig said the man knew he was on the cusp of a prison sentence. He applied for final name suppression for the man.



"Our communities need to be educated that the online movement and trading

of child sexual abuse material is regularly happening throughout all corners of our society. The worrying aspect of this activity is that it is not a victimless crime, it is increasing in volume, numbers of offenders, and seriousness of content."

The investigation involved New Zealand Customs, the Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand Police and Child, Youth and Family.

NZPA, NZ Herald

ECPAT Child ALERT comments: We totally agree with the concerns expressed by the Crown prosecutor and the Judge – it is time people realised this crime is far too common in New Zealand and that strong action needs to be taken to reduce the demand for illegal child sex images on the Internet.

