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Editorial

Sexual Violence against Children

Last month the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Women's Affairs announced a National Task Force on Sexual Violence. Health, Te Puni Kokeri, Police and Corrections are also parties in the Task Force together with NGO representatives.

The task force was launched at a national hui on sexual violence government's and the non-governmental organisation National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (NNEST). The draft terms of reference for the Task Force include; looking at the provision of services to victims, prevention initiatives and programmes to reduce offending, criminal justice system responses to sexual offending, and how victims are supported through the criminal justice system.

ECPAT NZ is a member of NNEST and participated in the national hui. We warmly welcome the initiative to examine sexual violence in our communities. However we are terribly disappointed that the focus of the task force is adult sexual violence - **children and young people are specifically excluded from its Terms of Reference. Particular as despite representations to the Task Force on Family Violence, it seems sexual violence against children is in danger of falling off that agenda too.**

Last week saw the release of the Bazley report from the Commission of Inquiry into Police Conduct. It included 313 complaints of sexual assault against 222 police officers between 1979 and 2002. The Police Commissioner, Howard Broad said he was 'truly sorry' and apologised to women harmed by sex abuse from police officers. The Prime Minister praised the courage of Louise Nicholas and Judith Garrett for coming forward with their complaints of rape and sexual abuse that lead to the Commission being established.

However, it's not only incidents within the police that contribute to the findings of the Commission. We have a culture that marginalises the impact of sexual violence and offending, particularly against children. For example, we have no sex offenders register. No monitoring of convicted sexual offenders meant Amor Josiah Walters (who was sentenced to 15 years and preventive detention in February 2007) could continue to offend against children unchecked for 7 years after his last sentence.

(NZ Herald 16-02-2007)

There is no Louise Nicholas or Judith Garrett to challenge a culture that ignores sexual violence against children.
It's up to all of us to speak with and for children.

Cook Islands Visitors



Angie Tuara PTI and Mamatere Strickland

March saw visits to ECPAT NZ by members of Punanga Tauturu Inc (PTI) our partner in the Cook Islands. Mii Daniels spent 4 weeks on attachment with TAHI in South Auckland. Angie Tuara participated in the CID training hui on Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation together with ECPAT. This was a great opportunity to plan future work together and ensure our A, M & E processes are state of the art.

A National Consultation in June will bring together key stakeholders to discuss the findings of the CSEC research study conducted in 2006. Participants from Rarotonga and outer islands will be invited. Mamatere Strickland – who is of Cook Islands decent, will be conducting community awareness activities during consultation. She hopes telling her own powerful story of sexual abuse, exploitation and recovery will enable communities to develop ways of supporting and healing the victims of sexual abuse.

KOHA Trust is contributing to funding the national consultation and partnership development between PTI and ECPAT NZ.

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ECPAT NEW ZEALAND is pleased to present

Choose with Care

Building Child Safe Organisations
An Information and Training Programme



Who is 'Choose with Care' for?

Choose With Care is highly relevant to any organisation or voluntary group working with children. It will assist in developing awareness and outlines practical steps that organisations can take to reduce the opportunities for children to be abused whilst in their care.

Organisations using Choose With Care include:

- Childcare centres/ kindergartens
- Family Day Care
- Youth Groups
- Sports and Recreation clubs
- Holiday programs
- After school care
- Health or welfare organisations
- Foster care agencies
- Mentoring groups
- International development programs
- Voluntary groups working with children and young people

ChildWise (ECPAT in Australia) developed its innovative child sexual abuse prevention programme Choose with Care based on its experiences in child protection training over 15 years in Australia and South East Asia.

Why Do We Need Choose With Care?

Choose With Care has been developed in response to sex offenders targeting organisations working with children. It is now well known that sex offenders seek employment in organisations where they can gain access to vulnerable children. They will often seek out positions which not only provide them with access to children but also a professional subterfuge to conceal their abusive activities. Unfortunately it is not easy to identify a child sex offender. There are no reliable psychological tests or profiles to identify them.

Choose with Care has been awarded

- National Child Protection Award Overall Winner 2003
- Crime Prevention Awards Certificate of Merit 2002

What is Choose With Care?

Choose With Care is an innovative prevention program, which aims to minimise the risk of child abuse occurring within organisations working with children. The program is unique in Australia and one of few world-wide promoting a systemic approach to child abuse prevention. The program will assist organisations to improve their screening, recruitment and management practices for staff and volunteers.

The Choose With Care Program includes information on:

- Child protection policies
- Codes of conduct
- Screening procedures
- Recruitment and selection practices
- Legal issues and responsibilities
- Systems for responding to complaints of abuse within an organisation
- The ongoing maintenance of child safe organisation

There are limited numbers of places still available so please register to reserve your place before April 20th.

Contact: Ellen Brewster at ECPAT NZ ellenb@ecpat.org.nz,
09-376-5252

Cost: \$70

Cheque payable to ECPAT NZ, PO Box 41-264, St. Lukes, Auckland

Child Trafficking – Modern Slavery

Some 1.2 million children are now estimated by the UN to be trafficked annually. Around 246 million children are also thought to be involved in child labour. UNICEF

In 2004, ECPAT UK published Cause for Concern, a research report based on interviews with London social services teams on the issue of child trafficking. This report found that 26 out of 32 London boroughs had concerns about child trafficking. It also highlighted significant problems in tackling child trafficking, including little or no training of social workers in this area, poor communication between agencies, inconsistent standards of care and accommodation for child victims, and ad hoc methods of victim identification.

Across the three regions there were 80 reported cases of known or suspected child victims of trafficking. Even more disturbing is that 48 (60%) of these children have gone missing from social services care and have never been found. Even while in the care of a local authority, child victims of trafficking remain a highly vulnerable group.

During the period of this study a UK-wide police operation called Operation Pentameter led raids on brothels and saunas across the country and removed 84 trafficked females of which 12 were under 18 years of age, the youngest was 14 years. As with evidence emerging in this study the nationality of these girls challenges the assumption that trafficking for sexual exploitation is mainly associated with Eastern Europe or East Asia. In Operation Pentameter 9 of the 12 rescued girls were African. *ECPAT UK*

The 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery was marked by a series of events and commemorations around the world. Here in New Zealand Wellington Cathedral held an ecumenical service marking 200 years since the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and drawing attention to modern day trafficking and exploitation of people.

ECPAT national Director, Jane Foster was guest speaker at a lecture on Child Trafficking – Modern Slavery at St. Andrews on the Terrace. This included issues like is New Zealand exempt from child trafficking and slavery. And how can New Zealanders contribute the fight against sexual exploitation of children worldwide?

Child Sex Tourism

ECPAT NZ has lobbied long and hard for government to take a role in creating greater awareness of Child Sex Tourism and extra territorial legislation. Last month MFAT placed a page of Sex Crimes against Children on its website. The page gives information on legislation and penalties as well as information on how to report incidents and a hot link to www.ecpat.org.nz! Our sincere thanks to travel industry representatives on the Safe Travel Advisory Group for their support and to staff at MFAT who developed the web page.

<http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/children/sexcrimes.shtml>

Check it out!

ECPAT International News

The ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee is a group of young people elected from all over the world to fight against CSEC. The new EICYAC website is now available. Look out for new developments over the coming months.

<http://eicyac.org>

ECPAT NZ Board

We would like to welcome and introduce our new Board members, Janet Whiteside, Kevin Clapperton and Serafin Dillon. Kevin takes on the role of Treasurer and Serafin is our Youth Representative. The Board continues to develop and gain capacity in the areas of Marketing and Public Relations and Information Technology.

Internship

I am Aurelie Gentile, from France, and I am honored to be part of the ECPAT NZ team, until June 2007. I am a clinical psychologist with a specialization in childhood and adolescence, because I have always felt concerned about youth, their needs for development and protection. When I decided to come in New Zealand for a year, I thought that in the mean time I could be useful working as a volunteer and I started looking for NGO working for the child protection.

When I learnt about ECPAT, it appeared to me that struggling with sexual abuse against children was a priority, and I contacted the office. I received such a great welcome that the commitment became obvious, and then the next step was to determine how I could help. We discussed the different projects. I was interested in helping to set up the "Choose with Care" workshop, which aim is to build safer organisations for children. Thus I am in charge of the materials development for this workshop, and I am proudly participating to the great work Ellen and Jane are accomplishing. Many thanks for your welcome!

We agree Stop child sexualisation

One of the fundamental responsibilities we accept as adults is the protection of children. And one of the most obvious ways we do that is by allowing them to be children by not subjecting them to adult ideas or experiences before they are mature enough to cope. Readers have responded with anger and concern to a recent series in the *Sunday Age* highlighting the sexualisation of children through advertising and marketing.

The selling of sex to children, or the selling of sex in forums where children are exposed to it, is an issue that ought to be taken seriously, and it is pleasing to see that the Australian Association of National Advertisers is considering lifting its standards. It is an issue where balance is needed and we should be careful not to be hysterical. We should also consider what we might do to counteract children's exposure to inappropriate sexual imagery.

Sex is part of life and children will find out about it eventually whether it's through a soap opera, a book or their best friend's older sister and some of that information will be unreliable at best. So perhaps we need to be more proactive in ensuring they receive accurate information appropriate to their age and development, while continuing to put pressure on advertisers and marketers to be more responsible about where, when and in what context they use sex to sell their products.

Source: The Age Melbourne 09/04/07

Two years' jail for child sex abuse images

Glyndwr Ross Paton, a 46 year old production facilitator was sentenced to two years' jail for distributing and possessing pictures and movies of children being sexually abused. Paton had earlier pleaded guilty in the Blenheim District Court to four charges of distributing an objectionable publication and 15 of possession.

Judge Tony Zohrab sentenced Paton to two years for distribution and one year for possession, with leave to seek home detention and the terms to be served concurrently.

Source: DIA Media Release 29/03/07

72 year old man found guilty of sexually abusing daughter

A jury found a 72 year old man guilty in the Palmerston North District Court of sexually abusing his young daughter. Three counts of indecent assault on a girl under 12, three counts of inducing her to perform an indecent act, one count of attempted rape, and one count of performing an indecency with a dog. During the three day trial the jury heard the man abused his daughter now in her forties between 1969 and 1974, when she was aged between four and eight. The man has previous convictions for similar offending against a girl and boy.

The Man was remanded in custody for sentencing on April 4 2007.

Source: Stuff.co.nz 12/03/2007

Paedophile found in Upper Hutt

Eoghan Colm McBride, 68, a convicted paedophile is living unsupervised in Upper Hutt. He was sentenced to seven years jail in India for sex offences against destitute orphaned children in Goa – part of a child sex racket. Mr McBride was extradited from New Zealand to Goa in 1999 after Indian police laid child-sex charges dating from the late 1980's. He was deported back to New Zealand in November 2005.

Source: Stuff.co.nz 08/03/2007

Jailed for child sex abuse pictures

Zane Lawrence Harris, a 35 year old computer technician was jailed for five months in the Whakatane District Court 4th April 2007 after being convicted a second time for possessing pictures of child sexual abuse. Harris had pleaded guilty to one charge of possessing an objectionable publication knowing it was objectionable. He was convicted of 38 similar offences in 2001.

Judge Louis Bidois declined Harris leave to apply for home detention.

Source: DIA Media Release 4/04/07

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