



## Editorial

### CHANGES IN THE ECPAT OFFICE

This month we farewell our National Director, Jane Foster who leaves ECPAT New Zealand to take-up a position with Oxfam. During these last 18 months working as Director, Jane has made a significant contribution to the on-going work of ECPAT and the Board have been grateful for her leadership. In particular, she has helped launch a number of important initiatives including a study conducted with the Cook Islands Women's Counseling Centre, Punanga Tauturu Inc on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse in the Cook Islands; an international hotline for reporting child sex tourism and a program soon to be piloted to monitor and block child pornography on the internet.

The Board of ECPAT expresses its thanks to Jane for her dedication to the work for children and wishes her well in her new role.

Recruitment for a new Director is underway with a new appointment expected to take place in the coming months. During this interim period Alan Bell has returned to be the acting Director of ECPAT New Zealand. Alan is well-known to our members and we thank him for accepting this position.

#### *Maureen Crombie*

Chairman of the Board, ECPAT NZ

#### Farewell to Ellen

Anyone who has visited the ECPAT office in Auckland will know Ellen Brewster. Her wonderful smile together with her unfailing helpfulness has been one of the great lasting memories for people visiting the office. Since January 2002 Ellen has been the glue that held the office together and often the only one who knew where anything could be found.

This was her first work in the not-for profit sector and she spoke with gratitude of her joy at "working alongside passionate and dedicated people who are working for children". It is now time for her to move on and ECPAT wishes her much happiness and success in her future work. Thankyou Ellen.

#### Hello to Sophie

If you are visiting the ECPAT office in the next few months Ellen's place will be taken by Sophie Macpherson. Sophie has been an ECPAT volunteer for the past eight months and will be known to those who were at the Annual General Meeting. Sophie is currently doing advanced studies in computers and will be part-time in the office most days between 9.30a.m. and 4.30pm.



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## What I Take With Me

Jane Foster has a farewell reflection on her time with ECPAT NZ



You can't unlearn this stuff. Once you know about the mission and work of ECPAT it's not something you can walk away from. It changes the way you perceive the world and the risks children face. There have been times when it's been a dark depressing journey. There have also been a number of 'light bulb' moments. Discussing the need for child protection and vigilance with colleagues in other agencies you see that flash of comprehension – the 'aha' moment. When they realise that although their work may not be directly with children their roles and interventions could make children vulnerable or expose them to risk. Then comes the "OK so what can we do about it" moment. Those have been great moments.

So although I am leaving ECPAT NZ I will take what I learned wherever I go. I will not stay silent when I see practice and situations that make children vulnerable and put them at risk. I will urge my colleagues and partner organisations to see child protection as basic principle in all the development work they do.

Do no harm – is often cited as a principle of intervention. I've got a new one to add - create no opportunities for children to be harmed.

Jane Foster

## ARE YOU TRAVELLING THIS YEAR ?

ECPAT New Zealand has set up a hot line for travelers to report any instances of child sex abuse. In some countries children are targeted by foreign paedophiles and sex tourists and from time to time travelers might become aware of such crimes taking place. If so you are urged to make use of our hotline and send us whatever information you have. Already several reports have been received from people who have found our site on the web. ECPAT International has offices in 72 countries so we can convey the information to the appropriate people.



Send messages to: [www.reportchildsex.com](http://www.reportchildsex.com) ■

## End Child Sex Abuse

This month ECPAT - NZ launches a blog which will give regular comments on CSEC news. Ron O'Grady will write a regular column and other Board members will contribute from time to time. Check it out on the web and list it on your favourites.

[www.nochildsex.blogspot.com](http://www.nochildsex.blogspot.com)

The title of our blog has two curious inclusions – the Euro and the Dollar \$. They are there as a reminder that in our generation child sex has become a commercial activity where children can be bought and sold as commodities.

It is this attitude that ECPAT is attempting to end.



## Rosita

The Human Rights Film Festival 2007 screened a moving film from Nicaragua – called Rosita. It's the story of a nine year old Nicaraguan girl who is living with her migrant worker parents in Costa Rica. Rosita is raped by a neighbour on her way to school one day. She becomes pregnant as a result of the rape.

In much of Central America, therapeutic abortion is legal in cases where the life of the woman / girl is in danger as a result of pregnancy. But the powerful influences of the church and state in both Costa Rica and Nicaragua work to prevent Rosita and her family's efforts to protect her health and well-being.

Courageous human rights activists, lawyers and doctors support Rosita and her parents to pursue what they believe is the right course of action. Eventually Rosita is able to return to her childhood after a therapeutic abortion.

The film demonstrates the enormous range of challenges that Rosita, her parents and their supporters face when they try to ensure her human rights are respected.

### Paedophile Database

The public naming and shaming of paedophiles is again in the news with the decision by the Sensible Sentencing Trust to launch a database of offenders on its website. The list contains 500 names and is found on the web at [www.safe-nz.org.nz](http://www.safe-nz.org.nz).

Not surprisingly there has been a strong opposition from those who believe that naming paedophiles makes their rehabilitation more difficult and can lead to a public witch hunt against some individuals.

While recognising these possibilities they have to be weighed against the need to protect our children and the degree to which child sex offenders are likely to continually reoffend.

ECPAT NZ believes that there is positive value in an accessible database but would prefer that this be done by the police in association with other advisors such as health professionals. For this reason we will continue to urge the government to initiate a paedophile register and hope that this will soon get a positive response.

Such registers already exist in other countries and have a number of safe-guards in them to ensure that they are used properly and with the desired effect of protecting children.

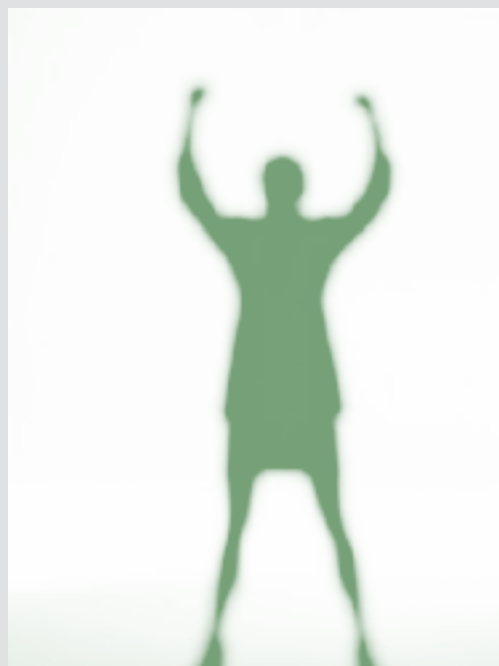
## Amazing Grace

This is the story of the life and work of William Wilberforce who led the struggle to abolish slavery. It was a long and bitter campaign that eventually led to a law to abolish slavery in the British Empire in 1807.

There are actually more slaves in the world today than were extracted from Africa during 400 years of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In fact, experts estimate there are more than 25 million human beings held as slaves in our world today. These people are not slaves in a metaphorical sense – they are actual slaves held in forced servitude by other human beings.

When Wilberforce sought to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire in 1807, about 40,000 to 50,000 new slaves a year were being boarded onto British ships. While a nightmarishly large number for its day, there are far more children sold into sex slavery every year in the 21st Century — as a many a million a year according to UNICEF – to say nothing of the millions of adults held in other forms of slavery in the mines, rock quarries, brick factories, plantations and rice mills of our world.

When ECPAT began in 1990 its first meeting was under the title of “Escape from Slavery” a reflection of the one million children under the age of 16 years held as slaves in the brothels of Asia.



*There is a wonderful, mystical  
law of nature  
that the three things  
we crave most in life,  
happiness, freedom  
and peace of mind,  
are always attained  
by giving them to someone else  
- anon*

## Enforcement Issues

### Child Pornography Ring Exposed

Last month yet another ring of child sex abusers was uncovered. A particularly nasty group of 700 members located in 35 countries has been exposed. Not only did the participants collect large numbers of images of child pornography many of them were also linked together for live broadcasts of an actual abuse.

The British police uncovered the central character in this ring and after that began to uncover many other members of the ring. Through forensic investigation they were also able to identify 30 of the abused children and rescue them from the cruelty of their situation.

Of course we are delighted that the abusers have been caught but it is a very small victory in a very large battle. It is evident that there are many organisations of this kind operating around the world and their methods of ensuring secrecy have become increasingly sophisticated. Many of them evade discovery by using servers or anonymous remailers in Russia or one of the other former Eastern bloc countries.

Law enforcement officers play a cat and mouse game in trying to break these paedophile circles of abuse. No sooner do they find a way to monitor one form of information transfer than another IT method brings new problems of identification. And despite the serious nature of this crime against children it is still not regarded as a priority in some quarters. One of the ring members in Britain involved in the broadcast abuses had around 5000 child pornographic images on his computer and 392 child sex movies. Even if he is found guilty by the court he could still be released from prison in 19 months.

Meanwhile in New Zealand arrests continue. A Chinese man, Jun Jun Zhu living in Auckland was found guilty of distributing a DVD of nine young girls being sexually abused. The judge described the offender as "a parasite who feeds off the sexual deviancy of others" and sentenced him to three and a half years in prison followed by deportation.

### Sex Offender Sentenced

The first New Zealand case of a woman convicted of child sex offending was concluded in the courts last month. Briar Daravitski, 24 was found guilty of having sex with an underage boy and assault. An administrative error saved her from going to jail and she was sentenced to complete a further 350 hours of community work. New laws in New Zealand mean that men and women are treated equally as sex offenders.

### UN "Peace" Force in Trouble (Again)

What is it with the United Nations peacekeeping forces? Once again last month a number of their soldiers were sent home - this time for the sexual abuse of children in Sudan.

So frequently has this kind of action happened that newspapers no longer report all the cases.

Soldiers sent to foreign countries as peacekeepers are meant to reduce the violence but instead some of them use their position of power to commit repeated sex acts of violence against women and children. In 1990 serious cases of abuse in Cambodia received public attention. Since then, UN peacekeepers in countries as diverse as, Burundi, Haiti, Liberia, Congo and Timor and a number of other countries have been sent home for abusive activities. With about 80,000 military personnel currently serving in 17 countries the UN now appears to have an impossible task in trying to maintain some kind of discipline.

UNICEF and other children's agencies (including ECPAT national groups) are not geared to monitor the actions of soldiers, but their work with children has often required them to expose the exploitative acts of some of the peacekeepers. But the UN has no mechanism for court martial so when sex abuse incidents become public the only punishment for the offending soldier or soldiers will be a return ticket home where proceedings are rarely brought against offenders.

The UN "army" has little cohesion. It is a multinational and multicultural mix of soldiers with no common language or culture. Such an organisation has little chance of maintaining effective discipline and provides only minimum accountability for soldier's actions. Whether the governments sending troops will be willing to give more disciplinary powers to the UN is doubtful but this would be the only long-term solution. Until then all we can ask is that the UN forces try to develop three immediate qualities: increased accountability, greater discipline and more transparency.

### Howard's Heavy Hand

The news that there is child sex abuse in the Aboriginal Reserves of Australia comes as no surprise. Most people have known about this for decades. But a heavy handed military approach is no solution. What the Aboriginals have sought for years has been respect and understanding from their neighbours. A government apology to the indigenous people of Australia and a genuine partnership would be a more responsible action.

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