

ECPAT NZ Child ALERT Annual Report 2008-2009



Ron O'Grady
Board Chair



Alan Bell
National Director

ECPAT CHILD ALERT works to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). ECPAT stands for 'End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes'. ECPAT seeks to achieve this through providing research, advocacy and education focused on Child Protection, Child Pornography, Child Sex Tourism and Child Prostitution. ECPAT provides a niche role in supporting those agencies that are active at a grass roots level.

In 1996 the First World Congress on CSEC was held in Stockholm, Sweden. This was the culmination of a process which began in 1994 when ECPAT first proposed a World Congress. The event was co-organised by ECPAT, UNICEF and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was preceded by six regional consultations in different parts of the globe which provided direct inputs for the World Congress. A Declaration and Agenda for Action was unanimously adopted and 122 countries committed themselves to "a global partnership against the commercial sexual exploitation of children".

New Zealand made a commitment in 1996 to the world community that it would take local, regional and international action to address CSEC. This commitment was made by adopting the Stockholm Agenda for Action, which outlines strategies to prevent, protect and assist children to recover from sexual exploitation. As a follow up to this commitment, in 2000 New Zealand developed a National Plan of Action, Protecting Our Innocence. ECPAT NZ Child ALERT is a key partner with government in the implementation and monitoring of the New Zealand National Plan of Action.

ECPAT NZ Child ALERT works towards a world in which every child's right, freedom from commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, is achieved. Part of an international network of agencies with similar objectives ECPAT NZ Child ALERT participates on the local, national and international arenas. There is particular concern to assist the countries within the Pacific Region to formulate their own action plans to prevent child sexual exploitation.



www.ecpat.org.nz
www.childalert.org.nz

Every Child's Right - Freedom from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



ECPAT 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 NZ Child ALERT plays a key role in liaising and bringing about cooperation between key government and sector groups involved in the areas of CSEC. It focuses on strategic areas to ensure that children are protected both nationally and internationally.

When you need us...
we are here



CONCLUSION

ECPAT New Zealand had its first Annual General Meeting in July 1994 after three years of informal planning and activity. This is our 16th Annual General meeting and it brings an end to my official responsibilities with the Board of ECPAT New Zealand. It has been a long journey of almost 20 years. During which time I have been continually on the Board as a member or consultant and now as chairperson. It has been a roller-coaster ride with some great achievements and some real failures.

Working in this area has been an emotional experience. One week I was talking to Ed Hillary and getting his enthusiastic support from some work we are doing for children in Nepal and a few days later I discovered that a man I have known for many years had been arrested for sexually abusing little boys in a back street in Onehunga. It is the nature of our work in this world that the good and the evil often seem to exist side by side.

But it is always better to light a candle than curse the darkness and I like to think that through ECPAT we have lit a small candle of hope for many children who would otherwise have been the victims of a sexual predator.

You who are here tonight have been our friends and supporters in this task.

Thank you for your support over these many years and may ECPAT NZ Child ALERT long continue to help and protect our children.

Ron O'Grady
Chair
ECPAT NZ Child ALERT

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This past year, many new ventures have given ECPAT New Zealand a positive profile in the community and we are now well placed to take more positive actions in the coming year.

The Board

At the last Annual meeting, Ron O'Grady was appointed Chair for the current year, with Kevin Clapperton Treasurer and Janet Whiteside Secretary. Maureen Crombie resigned from the Board following her appointment as Chair of ECPAT International and increased workload. Janet Whiteside recently resigned from the Board due to work pressures and her place as Secretary was taken by Miriam Saphira. Yvonne Dufaur continued as a Board Member.

Board meetings were held every two months and an Organisational and Financial Review was conducted to consider progress and review the Strategic Directions. A revised ECPAT NZ Strategy and Business Plan has been approved by the Board for the period 2009 - 2012.

Charitable Trust

Ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of the organisation led ECPAT NZ to initiate a move from the status of an Incorporated Society to become a Charitable Trust. The 2009 Annual Meeting will be asked to approve a motion which will facilitate this change. If approved ECPAT New Zealand Incorporated will next year become ECPAT Child ALERT Trust.



The introduction of the words "Child Alert" into our title was approved by the Board during the year. The new brand name reflects our concern to protect New Zealand children and was adopted specifically as descriptive of our hotline programme. The larger task of combating commercial sexual exploitation of children as part of an international network is still at the heart of our work.

Staff

The appointment of Alan Bell to Director of ECPAT NZ has been a major factor in the success of the



organisation this year. His wide international experience and tireless energy have enabled us to weather the economic storm and approach the coming year with a number of exciting new possibilities for our movement. Unfortunately finances have not been sufficient to provide additional executive staff support to Alan but we hope that this situation will change in 2010.

The Board is grateful to those who have worked in the office. Jac Ma has been our Finance Officer in a part-time capacity since July 2007 and brought professional expertise and support to our work. This year, Ling Jiang started work as a volunteer in the office and has since been appointed a part-time and very efficient Office Manager.

Two overseas interns have also made a contribution to our work during the year. Nina Hagenauer from Austria spent her internship writing on the contrast between New Zealand and Austrian laws on child protection. Last month Aurelie Petit an intern from Belgium also began work in the ECPAT New Zealand office.

Many others have given much appreciated voluntary time to assist ECPAT.

Programmes

Child Sex Images

After two years of planning and trials, a Child Alert Hotline was launched in August 2009. The Hotline is a result of several years close cooperation between ECPAT New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs (Censorship Compliance Division). By using the Hotline, computer users send us the URL of images of child sex abuse which they accidentally discover on the Internet and these are forwarded to the DIA for inspection. Those deemed to be illegal are included in the Government's new filtering programme. The Hotline is already operational and in the first few weeks of its usage several hundred potentially illegal sites have been reported. Meantime the Department of Internal Affairs is currently implementing the complimentary filtering process at Internet Service Provider (ISP) level.

Child Sex Trafficking

The Body Shop International has been in discussion with ECPAT International for some time over the issue of trafficking children for sexual purposes. As a result a three year world-wide campaign in August 2009 with New Zealand being one of the first countries to launch the campaign. In each country, The Body Shop will sell the "Soft Hands Kind Heart" hand cream with the profits going to a local ECPAT project on trafficking. Staff in shops around New Zealand have been trained about ECPAT issues and promote these concerns to their customers.



Child Prostitution

A survey of child prostitution in New Zealand has been conducted by ECPAT through questionnaires sent to New Zealand counselors. Miriam Saphira is in the process of analysing the findings of this survey. An earlier study called "Speaking for Ourselves" which contains interviews with some New Zealand child prostitutes will be published in coming weeks.

ECPAT office maintains close links with organisations and individuals working with street children in many parts of New Zealand and accept the government estimate that around 200 underage children are involved in prostitution in our country.

Protecting Our Children

Constituency

ECPAT New Zealand has always had a loyal base of supporters around the country. Efforts have been made to enlist many more individuals and groups associated with our work. The Body Shop is helping to gather names of those who support ECPAT aims and an increasingly large number of email and street addresses are now included on the ECPAT New Zealand supporter database.

Among our constituents are a several organisations and individuals who have given generous support to us over the past year. We are deeply grateful for the trust you have put in our work and we believe we have used your gifts wisely and well. The cause which gave birth to ECPAT remains the one which motivates us – to protect children from those who sexually exploit and abuse them. You are our partners in this work and we thank you.

ORGANISATIONAL LINKS

Government

The change in Government this year has led to several meetings with Ministers of the Crown and other Members of Parliament to introduce ECPAT and inform them of our concerns. ECPAT works primarily with the Department of Internal Affairs (Censorship Compliance) on child pornography issues; The Justice Ministry on New Zealand's Plan for Action to end child sex abuse; the New Zealand Police on criminal actions against the sexual abuse of children; the Department of Labour on trafficking issues and indirectly with several other Ministries.

Non-Governmental Organisations and the Private Sector

With many other organisations now working on issues related to the ECPAT Child ALERT agenda the office has been exploring possible coalitions and partnerships. In the commercial field ACCOR Hotels have an international agreement to work with ECPAT and we have discussed ways that can take place. Agencies such as SAFE, Netsafe, ACYA and the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography are among the many groups contacted this year.

The Pacific

ECPAT NZ continues to work with colleagues at Punanga Tautara in Rarotonga to assist the Cook Islands Government to develop a National Plan of Action against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Our work in the Pacific is done in cooperation with ECPAT Australia (Child Wise) and ECPAT International. A regional consultation is planned for next year.

ECPAT International

The most important of our overseas links is with ECPAT International. Our world body now operates in 82 countries and last December (2008) held its bi-annual International Assembly in Rio de Janeiro at the same time as World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children & Adolescents. More than 3,000 people attended the Congress with 137 official government delegations. The New Zealand Government did not send a delegation to the Congress but the NZ Children's Commissioner, Cindy Kiro, gave a major address to the Assembly.

ECPAT New Zealand had four representatives at the Assembly at which Maureen Crombie was elected the new chairperson of ECPAT International Board and Alan Bell was appointed a member of the ECPAT International Board representing the Pacific Region. We congratulate them both and wish them well in their new responsibilities.