

**End child prostitution pornography and trafficking**  
June 2003



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## **Government Moves Cautiously Toward a Paedophile Register**

**In May, Justice Minister Phil Goff announced that the government is considering new measures to improve the monitoring of convicted child sex offenders through a register.**

The measures for active management of child sex offenders beyond the current procedures include significantly extending parole periods, and imposing civil restraining orders on offenders considered a danger to the community. New changes to the Sentencing and Parole Acts allowed for longer sentences, including preventive detention for the most serious offenders, stricter parole conditions and more information sharing between Police and Corrections.

Mr Goff said that, "a register of child sex offenders, as proposed by Deborah Coddington's member's bill, will also be looked at as a serious option. However if the names and addresses of convicted sex offenders were simply recorded, this by itself would be of limited usefulness and add little to current police intelligence. What is needed is a system that permits high risk child sex offenders to be supervised, supported and controlled well beyond the end of the current parole or supervision period".

ECPAT welcomes this move toward the establishment of a proper paedophile register. Provided there are proper safeguards, registers have proved their worth in a number of overseas countries and add one further dimension to the protection of children.

## **A Must See Movie**

This year's winter Film Festivals held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch will feature a Swedish film called *Lilya 4-Ever*. It is a film which all ECPAT supporters should be aware of.

It recounts the true story of a 16 year old Lithuanian girl who was trafficked to Sweden and after being kept as a sex-slave committed suicide by jumping off a bridge in the Southern city of Malmo.

The film has had a huge impact in Sweden where it has been showing for eight months, giving the Swedish an understanding of the problem of trafficking and prostitution in their own back-yard.

The film has been so effective the Swedish government is now screening it in schools.

**See it yourself at a Film Festival in  
Auckland July 11-27  
Wellington July 18 to August 3  
Christchurch July 31 to August 17  
For general enquiries [www.festival@nzff.co.nz](mailto:www.festival@nzff.co.nz)**

### **TV3 Appeal**

On Sunday 1 June at 7.30pm TV3 will be making a public apology for breaching the privacy of the Fijian children during a 20/20 documentary in July 2001.

## **AROUND THE WORLD**

### **Sex Tourists Discover Bali**

The island of Bali is becoming a new centre for child prostitution. Unknown in traditional Balinese society the influx of tourists has been a major force in creating the new demand for children. The Jakarta Post traced one story back to around 1995 when a young Balinese girl, aged 10 years was taken by a man to foreign tourists who were visiting the resort island. She was forced to do sexual acts for the tourists who paid money to the pimp. Soon after a Japanese man took her to Japan but she escaped and went home but this time her home village refused to accept her back again.

And that is how, at the age of 14 years she returned to the tourist area and became a madam supplying children to paedophile tourists for the next two years. More recently she met an Australian man and moved in with him. Her story is one of many that could be told of Indonesian children who have been trafficked outside of their home villages to be exploited as sex workers.

### **Controlling Paedophiles in the UK**

Last month the British government announced it is introducing tough new measures to stop paedophiles from travelling abroad for "sex tourism". There will be new powers introduced and travel controls to prevent child abusers travelling to countries known for their trade in underage sex.

The Brits have been stung by recent publicity surrounding pop star Gary Glitter who was found guilty of paedophile activities in England and then travelled to South-East

Asia to continue his crimes against children. In Cambodia he was questioned by the police and then sent out of the country as “undesirable”. Glitter was jailed for four months at Bristol, November 1999 after pleading guilty to 54 offences of downloading indecent images of children from the internet. He was placed on the paedophile register.

In future, registered sex offenders in Britain will have to notify the police if they intend to go abroad for three days or more. Under the new travel ban, police will be able to specify groups of countries or even a continent which a person may not travel to.

### Thai Girls Trafficked

The Thai government and NGOs have had some success in reducing the number of Thai children who are entering prostitution in Thailand. The greater problem now is that children are being trafficked into Thailand to meet the continuing demand.

The Thai government is now claiming that trafficking in women and children has reached uncomfortable levels. Thailand serves as a source, an end destination and a transit point for the trade, and is appealing to neighbouring countries for greater cooperation.

A sub-committee to coordinate the eradication of trafficking in women and children submitted a new national plan on trafficking for cabinet approval late last year but it takes time to get through the bureaucracy.

Thai women are also trafficked around the world. There is a large market for Thai prostitutes in Germany, where 40,000-50,000 Thais have married German citizens and some have become prostitutes. More recently large numbers of Thai prostitutes have found their way to England and Malaysia. The number coming to New Zealand is not known.

### Tourism Industry Acts

The tourism industry continues to keep the issue of child sex tourism high on its agenda. As part of an international campaign the World Tourism Organisation is holding an Asia-Pacific Conference hosted by the Indonesian Government in Bali June 26, 27 to consider child sex tourism in this region. Unfortunately the New Zealand government is not a member of the WTO so the government will not be represented. ECPAT will be playing a major role in the meeting.

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) has a Task Force, which aims at promoting a socially responsible and sustainable tourism that respects the rights of the child. Its main objective is to prevent sexual abuse of children occurring within the tourism channels and facilities by creating effective networks and sound partnerships among the private and public sectors, governments, the tourism industry, international organisations and NGOs.

## VISITOR TO NEW ZEALAND

While New Zealand debates the Prostitution Reform Bill several visitors have visited our country with a vast amount of experience and research into the potential impact of any decriminalisation here in New Zealand. Dr Melissa Farley from California has

visited New Zealand as we go to print and is currently carrying out research on prostitution in New Zealand. She interviewed sex workers on the streets and in parlours. On the street there were minders present suggesting a strong pimping arrangement some of which is gang related. Her visits to massage parlours and subsequent interviews did indicate a level of financial exploitation, inability to refuse clients, and these factors have all been a feature in world wide research into sex work.

Dr Farley is soon to publish findings on prostitution in nine countries. Dr Farley and other colleagues interviewed 845 people in nine different countries about sex workers current and lifetime history of sexual and physical violence. They found that prostitution was multi-traumatic; 71% were physically assaulted; 635 were raped; 89% of these respondents wanted to escape prostitution but did not have the options for survival. In addition 75% had been homeless at some point in their lives and 68% met the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This disorder was associated with the number and different types of lifetime sexual and physical assaults that had occurred. This study found that most of those in prostitution do not freely consent to carry it out which has serious health consequences.

ECPAT NZ is committed to ending child prostitution so what role does ECPAT have in this debate?

When there is an attitude that women can be bought, sold and trafficked around the world as part of the "global economy" there is a demand for children as well. In New Zealand, 79 percent of sexual offence convictions were committed against young people, 16 years and under over a five year period 1995 – 2001. These statistics came from the Ministry of Justice. This would indicate a high level of demand by New Zealand men to use and abuse children. Overseas researchers such as Silbert, Weisberg, Pines and Farley, have indicated that the average age in every country for the commencement of prostitution is adolescence and concluded that any liberalisation will lead to children being lured into the sex industry in greater numbers than there are already.

Ms Gunilla Ekberg a senior policy advisor with the Swedish government is also to visit New Zealand in early June. She will be discussing Sweden's new prostitution reform legislation, in which "the demand for sex" has been made illegal. Ms Ekberg is a strong proponent in favour of her government's new legislation.

ECPAT has received several papers given at the Effects of Legalisation of Prostitution Activities Conference and we will be happy to supply interested people a copy if you send us a stamped addressed envelope and two ninety cent stamps.

**Please help us continue the fight to end commercial child abuse**

- \* Make an automated payment of \$20.00 by dialing 0900 32728
- \* Enclosed is my donation of: (Please make cheques payable to ECPAT NZ Inc)

q\$5 q\$10 q\$20 q\$50 qOther \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name and address (if different from address on back)

All donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible

Do you require a receipt? Yes

No

Thankyou for your support

## **We Are Moving**

From July 1, 2003 the ECPAT NZ

Office will be at a new location.

All contact details, box number, phone, fax, and email remain the same.

The present office will be vacated to make way for development.

## **ECPAT Annual Appeal**

June 4 is the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

Each year from now on, ECPAT NZ plans to commemorate this day for all commercially sexually exploited children.

We will have our first ever Annual Appeal on this day.

If you wish to participate please contact Ellen or Lee at our office.

We are looking for volunteers to act as official collectors for the appeal, in the Auckland area only.