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Au Delà Des Frontières Inc.



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Beyond Borders Newsletter

Ensuring Global Justice for Children

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CANADA, PLEASE!

By Maureen Seneviratne, ECPAT, P.E.A.C.E., Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a beautiful country but unfortunately a target country for Canadian sex tourists. Even your high risk convicted sex offenders like John Robin Sharpe, can return here to abuse our children.

P.E.A.C.E. (Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere) deals with the pathetic, traumatized, criminalized fall-out so we must insist that your law enforcement authorities and politicians take much stronger steps to prevent these convicted criminals from leaving their country on "child sex sojourns" in ours.

P.E.A.C.E. is well aware that Canadian pedophiles are a danger to children everywhere. Because they carry their perversions as part of their baggage and too little is done in their countries of origin to keep tabs on them after they have been convicted, served their (all too short) sentences and are out in the free and open air again, child sex tourists too often come to Sri Lanka to start abusing children all over again.

Here in Sri Lanka the deadly International Network to enable them is well established and is all too willing to provide child sex tourists with child victims a-plenty. But our own Police Children's Protection Bureau is active and takes steps to enforce our laws to protect children. P.E.A.C.E. advocacy is strong and ongoing and our specially trained staff is alert and watchful all the time to collect data and report on offenders. We are lynx-eyed about this. We need your help.

I appeal to the Canadian people to be **AWARE**. The Canadian authorities to **ACT**. To be more **CONCERNED**. To have some **EMPATHY** with and **SYMPATHY** for these unfortunate child victims of Canadian child sex tourists who are damaged and destroyed before they can even begin to bloom. They already endure the ravages of unalleviated poverty. Your co-operation is needed to help us combat the crime of their abuse.

To learn what Canada can do to stop child sex tourism go

www.beyondborders.org and read our **Fact Sheet:**

How Canada Allows Its Convicted Sex Offenders to Freely Travel Abroad

To Report Child Sex Tourism go to www.cybertip.ca

Beyond Borders is a Canadian affiliate of **ECPAT International**
End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the
Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
Bangkok, Thailand www.ecpat.net



ECPAT International **Global Monitoring Report** on the **Status of Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)**

By *Teela Tomassetti, Beyond Borders student volunteer*

On the 19th December in Bangkok, Thailand *ECPAT International* launched the *Agenda for Action Monitoring Report (A4A)* a global overview of the sexual exploitation of children country by country and actions needed to further child rights to protection from all forms of sexual abuse. Here are the **PRIORITY ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR CANADA**.

Develop a plan of action to comply with the *Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action*.

Strengthen coordination and collaboration between provinces to take action against CSEC.

Target child trafficking and prostitution as well as child pornography and online safety.

Launch a national campaign to prevent young boys from being ignored in the fight to end CSEC.

Involve aboriginal youth leaders in designing programmes directed at them, to address the over representation of aboriginals among Canada's sexually exploited children.

Appoint an independent Commissioner for Children to report annually to Parliament on the state of the nation's children.

Train police to be mentors and develop positive relationships with children on the street.

Improve monitoring of convicted sex offenders who are at a high risk of re-offending.

Ensure mandatory prison sentences are given for sexual crimes against children, rather than conditional ones.

Urge provincial governments to promote models for rehabilitation based on mentoring and damage reduction, such as the Safe House Model.

Raise the age of consent to 16 and include a five-year "close in age exemption" so as to not criminalize peer-to-peer sexual activity of consenting teens.

Review Canadian law to ensure that procuring a child for sexual activity entails stiff penalties.

Make third party victim impact statements mandatory for child pornography cases and allow NGOs to sue on behalf of the children in child abuse images.

Make the National Sex Offender Registry fully retroactive and open to law enforcement agencies and the public.

Allow Canadian Courts to impose 'foreign travel orders' on anyone they fear might sexually abuse a child overseas.

Always treat children as victims and **fast track** prosecutions of child sex offenders in the justice system.

ECPAT International is a global network of organizations and individuals working at all levels to build collaboration among local civil society and the broader child rights community to form a global social movement to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It encourages the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). ECPAT began in the late '80s as a campaign to raise awareness of the growing incidence of CSEC in Asia, and gradually extended to formalize links with other groups and organizations around the world. The ECPAT network now comprises 85 members in 76 countries. **Beyond Borders is the Canadian affiliate.**

To view the report on Canada or the complete report visit the Publications section of our website: www.beyondborders.org

We Get Mail

Hello,

I would just like to say thank you to Beyond Borders for the free access to your very informative website. The information and resources were a great help to me in researching the Age of Consent controversy for my research paper.

Thank you!

Student, Age 17

Predatory Tourists

Sex with Children Is Always Wrong, Wherever It Occurs

By Barbara Barnett-Fontaine

Child sex tourists carefully target destinations where, for reasons related to lax law enforcement and impoverishment, they are able to sexually use children with impunity. Others are less calculated. These opportunists take advantage of children who become available to them while they are abroad. They may perceive sex with children as an exotic and acceptable form of holiday entertainment. They couldn't be more wrong.

Without exception, sex with children is prohibited worldwide. It is not culturally acceptable anywhere and the children of other nations are no more inclined or prepared to engage in sexual acts with adults than our own children are. Their difference is only that they are compelled, out of dire economic need, and sometimes by brute force, to appease the sexual inclinations of tourists who, by choice, exploit them.

Child sex tourism is a growing problem that may exist in any country; however, there are some known areas where it thrives. For example, Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Cambodia and Vietnam are among the nations where children are most at risk.

Canada has also seen child sex tourists. At 14 years, our age of protection is below the worldwide average of 16. Unfortunately, this makes Canada an attractive destination for some child sex tourists who seek to sexually exploit children without any chance of legal repercussions whatsoever. Efforts to combat child sex tourism are growing. ECPAT groups worldwide have launched campaigns to warn against it.

Help Beyond Borders protect children by following the **Tips for Travelers** below, adapted from the **ECPAT New Zealand** website at:

<http://www.reportchildsex.com/site/page.aspx?id=9>

Tips for Travelers

- Be vigilant when you travel to high risk countries. Avoid bars and hotels and other places where you suspect child sexual exploitation might be happening.
- Don't visit red light districts. This encourages the proliferation of child sexual exploitation. Even the most innocent of purchases provides indirect financial support for this crime.
- If you suspect child sex tourism when you are abroad, report it to the local police, inform the nearest Canadian embassy, or access www.cybertip.ca to report it. Tell your tour guide and hoteliers. Encourage them to inform tourists that sex tourism is a crime.
- When you return home, let your travel agent and tour operator know of your observations and encourage them to take action.
- Visit www.thecode.org to find out the tour operators and travel agencies that have committed to fight against child sex tourism by signing on to an international code of conduct for the tourism industry. If you can use their services, then do.

Your Tax Dollars At Work

Beyond Borders Congratulates the Saskatoon Police Service, National Child Exploitation Co-ordination Centre, RCMP Thailand liaison office, Canada Border Services Agency and Passport Canada.

Robert Reddekopp was teaching school in Thailand when thousands of images of young boys engaged in various acts of masturbation, anal and oral sex with other children and adults were found in a dumpster in Saskatoon, SK, in 2002. Finding himself with no passport as the result of a refusal for a passport renewal by the Canadian Embassy in Thailand, Reddekopp returned to Canada and on January

8, 2007 pleaded guilty to child pornography possession. He was put on the Canadian sex offender registry. That is where the good news ends. Reddekopp was sentenced to 18 months house arrest and immediately informed the media that as soon as his conditional sentence is finished, he is returning to Thailand. Thailand does not need another pedophile. Due to the gross inadequacies of the sex offender registry, nothing can be done to prevent Reddekopp from getting a new passport and returning to teach in Thailand. For more information on LOOPHOLES IN THE SOR by Toronto Beyond Borders student member, David Thompson, go to www.beyondborders.org.

You Be the Judge

By Dorothy Muller

When a technician discovered child pornography on the company president's computer, he sought advice as to what to do about it by writing a letter to the editor of the New York Times Magazine.

A reply from the Ethicist advised "silence" the reason being "speaking up would be too ineffectual in protecting children".

This response was followed by a letter from none other than Alberto Gonzales, United States Attorney General, who in no uncertain terms denounced the advice as **reckless and naïve**. "Each image of child pornography", he said, "is a crime scene, and its possession a felony in 42 states and under federal law. Furthermore, reproducing these images prolongs the victimization of an innocent child. The Ethicist flippantly advises silence because speaking up would be too ineffective in protecting

children. But real children have been rescued by the discovery of such images. Without the images, we cannot find and rescue victims or punish the predators. **The Ethicist demonstrates a disappointing lack of understanding of how law enforcement works. This is unacceptable, and I urge all Americans to reject this poor advice.**"

Another response says the employee **should make sure he is protected as a whistleblower** and then go to the police.

Some are obviously uncomfortable speaking out about this problem and others fearful of putting their jobs at risk. The question is, in a civilised society do we really have a choice?

You be the judge.

Reporting Child Abuse Images Will Hold a Father Accountable For Sexually Abusing His Own Baby

A Calgary father who admitted he is addicted to child pornography has been found guilty of taking and distributing dozens of photos of himself sexually abusing his infant daughter from when she was only three weeks old. After the father's arrest, police found more than 2,000 images and 52 movies of child pornography, including those of his daughter, on his work computer. "The vast majority of the pictures were of pre-pubescent children [mostly girls] and there were a large number of babies and toddlers," Crown prosecutor Nadine Nesbitt told the judge. "[The father] admitted to police that he is addicted to child pornography and he cannot control himself. He said he has tried to stop but he cannot. He said his mind says he 'needs more, needs more, needs more,' like an alcoholic." Ms. Nesbitt said.
[Excerpt from Calgary Herald, Feb.16, 2007]

Beyond Borders Welcomes

Suzanne Chicoine has been elected **Beyond Borders Toronto Chair**. Suzanne has years of experience in and knowledge of the travel and tourism industry. She hopes to bring Canada in line with all the other countries whose travel and tourism partners are playing a key role in protecting children especially from child sex tourists. **Congratulations, Suzanne.**

David Thompson is our new **Toronto Media Spokesperson**. Now in his third year of law school, David is a long time member of Beyond Borders. David writes our online Fact Sheets and does a great job of making complicated legal issues easy to understand for non-

lawyers and students. So often the input of young people is missed when the public is given information on issues. However, it is students and youth that are impacted most by poor legislation and lax sentencing of sexual offenders. **Thank you, David, for joining our media team.**

Corey Martell has founded **Beyond Borders Edmonton** and has also taken on the responsibility of fundraising for Beyond Borders. Corey is a lawyer by training as well as a teacher. Presently Corey is a stay at home Mom with 2 young girls. **Good Luck Corey.**

You Tube now has the latest Air France in-flight video against child sex tourism.
To watch it go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo8qbxUhGfI>

An Ounce of Prevention

By Mina Vaish-Narang

“Sexual abuse thrives on secrecy and a climate of fear only perpetuates that secrecy. If fear and ignorance is replaced with resolve and understanding, victims can speak, society can hold the perpetrator accountable and potential offenders can seek help before they damage others” - Chris Wilson, Project Manager, Thames Valley Circles of Support and Accountability (UK).

“Before” is an uncommonly ordinary word. However within the context of child sexual exploitation and abuse, this seemingly ordinary word represents a powerful, proactive and preventative approach to reducing the incidence of child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence. Experts generally agree that investing in prevention programs, those which tackle the issues before an offence is committed against a child, correlates to a reduction of risk of harm. Ideally, holistic models of prevention encompass not only education, legislative and social deterrents, but also, the root of the problem itself: the would-be perpetrator. Why is it that we appear to have seemingly infinite self-help resources for smokers and alcoholics, but so little for those who target and hunt down our children?

Unfortunately, men and women who fantasize about sexually exploiting children (or those who have already victimized children) are often left to deal with their emotional or physical urges alone. The statistics show an astonishingly clear cause and effect statement: 75% of all serial rapists report they were sexually abused as children, and over 70% of all pedophiles are repeat offenders. It is not difficult to see how accessible confidential counselling and support may significantly assist these individuals to cope with their mental or emotional health, while possibly preventing them from acting out their urges.

Canada and other nations are slowly recognizing that investment in restorative justice, self-help resources and counselling for would-be perpetrators may well act like letting off steam from a pressure cooker ready to explode. It is important to note that not all perpetrators are habitual predators who may not benefit from simplistic self-help resources. Some perpetrators, often victims themselves, may benefit significantly from counselling or assistance in understanding their urges and fantasies. Often, counselling by professionals is expensive and inaccessible, and many would-be offenders may fear risk of exposure, vilification and indeed, isolation by seeking help by traditional methods of therapy.

Two programs are highlighted in this article: a self-help website developed by the EU (CROGA.ORG) which

appears to try to assist non-violent, would-be offenders and a Quaker run restorative justice program initiated in Canada called Circle of Support, which appears to target repeat, high-risk offenders who have already victimized children.

Croga.org (You can Stop!) is a self-help website whose goal is to increase awareness of sexual interest in children. Croga.org is a EU collaborative web-based site that aims to provide free, confidential self-help resources and exercises to individuals who may be interested in using the internet to download or view child pornography. It does not purport to be a diagnostic tool, nor does it claim to offer counselling services best serviced by professional psychotherapists or physicians. CROGA concentrates heavily on supplying would-be perpetrators with important tools and resources “before” they commit crimes against children. It explores possible individual issues including concepts of fantasies, internet dependencies and images as real life children (and not just electronic images). It also clarifies and enforces the illegality of acting out an offence against a child. This website offers all the necessary components a would-be perpetrator needs in a self-help forum: it is free, accessible and completely confidential.

Circles of Support and Accountability, supported by Corrections Canada, is a home grown organization which aims to support repeat offenders who have been released into the community, founded on Quaker principles. Volunteer members of the community meet weekly with the perpetrator with consent, with the objective of assisting this individual not to re-offend and also monitoring behaviour and mood for signs that he may re-offend. There are 25 Circles in Southwestern Ontario alone, and the program has been somewhat successful: Dr. Robin Wilson of Corrections Canada recently reported that only 3 smaller offences were reported in a period which should have produced 7 sexual offences. For more information on Circles of Support and Accountability, please see:

http://www.csc-cc.gc.ca/text/prgrm/chap/circle/proj-guid/index_e.shtml.

The lack of self-help resources available to individuals who are thinking of hurting children is an urgent call for action to Canadian child protection agencies whose mandate it is to endeavour to protect kids from child sexual abuse and exploitation. Let’s hope we answer that call.

Beyond Borders Media Awards - Bigger and Better Changes to Awards Will Raise Profile of Issue As Well As Journalists

By Deborah Zanke

Since 2003, Beyond Borders, with the support of **Booth Dennehy Law Offices**, has honoured exceptional media coverage on the issue of child sexual exploitation through its annual **Media Awards**.

The Media Awards section on the Beyond Borders website now lists the terms of reference for the awards that clearly outline the nomination process as well as the judging criteria. There is now also a nomination form that media outlets, journalists and other interested parties will have to fill out for a piece of work to be eligible.

New for 2007, we have two distinct awards categories. Judges will now evaluate print separately from television and radio. Also, to make the judging process as unbiased as possible, we will enlist three judges who will each be from separate geographic areas of the country.

The most exciting change involves plans to host a Media Awards event in Winnipeg in order to formally congratulate the winners. The Media Awards are an important vehicle for Beyond Borders to raise awareness about the issue of child sexual exploitation and to recognize the journalists who have also worked towards this end.

Beyond Borders Media Awards 2006 Winners

On November 19, in recognition of the *World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse*, Beyond Borders announced the winners of its 2006 Media Awards. The 2006 winners are:

Print Category (Tied):

Allison Hanes (formerly with The Montreal Gazette, now with the National Post) In March 2006, Allison wrote a series of articles for The Gazette about the issue of child sexual abuse images on the Internet.

Mike McIntyre (The Winnipeg Free Press) This past August, Canada was gripped by the horrendous story of two children abducted by convicted child sex offender, Peter Whitmore. Mike covered the story in a manner that went beyond usual crime reporting.

Electronic Category:

Diego Briceño-Orduz (Périphéria Productions Inc., Montreal) In May 2006, Diego's documentary, *Souvenir Kids*, aired on the CBC's *The Passionate Eye* offering the viewer an in-depth look at the issue of child sex tourism.

Each winner received a \$500 cash award along with an engraved commemorative gift. Beyond Borders congratulates all of the winners for their fine work. For more on this year's winners, visit the Beyond Borders website.

Thanks to John and Nancy Embry of Toronto, Beyond Borders now has **Charitable Tax Status**

As a result of a very generous donation by the founder and former Chair of Beyond Borders, Toronto, Nancy Embry and her husband John, Beyond Borders was able to hire legal counsel to apply for **Charitable Tax Status (CTS)**. For 10 years Beyond Borders has been working to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation. Beyond Borders speaks on behalf of victimized children in very difficult circumstances. Beyond Borders educates, via our website and through board membership, youth and students on the violations of the rights of children. Our work has attracted many kind donors like the Embrys. The board are very thankful to Robert Hayhoe, a charity tax partner at the national law firm of Miller Thomson in Toronto, Ray Oakes, volunteer legal counsel for Beyond Borders and Earl Gliner, our volunteer accountant for all their hard work in making our application a success. All donations will now get an official tax receipt. To donate to Beyond Borders, go to www.beyondborders.org or send a cheque to 387 Broadway Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V5.

Excerpts from the **Letter of Response from the Canadian Judicial Council To Beyond Borders** Regarding **Mr. Justice Kovach** - January 4, 2007

On September 30th, 2001, a 12 year old Grade 7 aboriginal runaway had the great misfortune of being spotted by three adult males, Trevor Edmondson, Jeffrey Brown and Jeffrey Kindrat. She weighed only 98 pounds, but the men plied her with liquor and she was sexually assaulted. After several hours, they dumped her off in an intoxicated and hysterical state, which resulted in her being hospitalized. Edmondson received house arrest for his sexual assault on this child, a sentence appealed but upheld by the Court of Appeal. This case continues today as Kindrat and Brown have to be retried due to errors by Justice Kovach. The possibility sadly exists that the child victim, **now in her 17th year, will spend her entire teenage life involved in the prosecution of these men.**

Justice Kovach constantly referred to these men as “the boys” and the victim as “Ms” prompting a complaint to the Judicial Council in 2003 regarding the rights of children in his courtroom. The following is an excerpt from the Judicial Council’s long awaited response.

In your letter you complain about the conduct of Justice Kovach in respect of his charge to the jury in *R. v. Kindrat and Brown* on June 25th, 2003. You particularly express concern about the terms used by Justice Kovach to describe the accused and Mr Edmondson in that matter and the terminology used to describe the 12 year old complainant. You requested that the Council consider whether or not Justice Kovach is fit to preside over criminal cases involving children.

After carefully considering the charge to the jury of Justice Kovach, the reviewing panel has concluded that the issue of the language used by Justice Kovach to refer to the accused and to the complainant in the matter raises issues of concern. However, the Panel notes that following the referral of your complaint to it, a letter of comment was forwarded to its attention by Justice Kovach. Comment was also received from Chief Justice Robert D. Laing of the Court of Queen’s Bench of Saskatchewan.

Justice Kovach in his letter of comment acknowledges that his references to Messrs Brown and Kindrat as “the boys” and to the child concerned as “Ms” or “young lady” were naive and inappropriate. He has expressed his regret for the inappropriate references.

The comment of Chief Justice Laing indicates that Justice Kovach has pursued instruction directed to the improvement of his sensitivity and skills related to such

matters. The Chief Justice suggests that in consideration of the apology of Justice Kovach and his subsequent attention to heightening his sensitivity and upgrading his skills, a repetition of the acknowledged inappropriate language would be unlikely.

As well, the Panel has requested that I inform you that in acknowledging the expression of regret of Justice Kovach, it stressed the ongoing need for sensitivity in the use of language by judges. The Panel noted that his matter underlines that all judges must continue to be alive to the issue of how language is perceived. To safeguard the respect of Canadians and maintain both the perception and reality of fairness, judges must approach their use of language with care and consideration.

Consequently, considering that the matters in issue have been reviewed and considered by the Court of Appeal and in consideration of the acknowledgement and apology of the judge, and the steps subsequently taken by him to address the issues of concern, the Panel has concluded that the matter is not serious enough to warrant removal of Justice Kovach. The Panel has therefore, directed that the file be closed.

To view the complete letter visit: www.beyondborders.org

For building Beyond Borders and ECPAT across Canada and working to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, **Beyond Borders President, Rosalind Prober**, has been nominated by Dr. Barbara Payne for the prestigious **YMCA-YWCA Woman of Distinction Award**. The winners will be announced May 2, 2007. Good luck, Roz.

Blocking Illegal Child Pornography Sites from Canadian Consumers

In November 2006, *Project Cleanfeed Canada* was launched by **Cybertip.ca** with the **Canadian Coalition Against Internet Child Exploitation (C-CAICE)**. Formed in the fall of 2004, C-CAICE's membership includes Beyond Borders and representatives from Canada's leading Internet companies, the federal and provincial governments, law enforcement, and chaired by Cybertip.ca. Cleanfeed is intended to make the Internet safer for Canadians and their families by reducing their chances of accidentally coming across images of child sexual exploitation on the Internet. Project Cleanfeed Canada is named after a similar initiative called "Project Cleanfeed" implemented very successfully by British Telecom in the UK and subsequently adopted by a number of other European ISPs.

The ABC's of Cleanfeed

A. Cybertip.ca receives complaints from Canadians regarding websites potentially hosting child pornographic images.

B. Once in receipt, analysts assess and validate the reporting person's information.

C. Content is assessed such that a minimum of 2 analysts will be required to approve the URL before submission. While the child pornography provisions under the Criminal Code recognize children under 18, the tipline will only be adding URLs displaying images of prepubescent children being assaulted or who are posed deliberately in a sexualized manner.

D. Only those URLs hosted outside Canada will be added to the Cleanfeed database. Law enforcement will proceed with their normal course of investigation for those sites hosted within Canada.

E. The ISPs' filters will automatically prevent access to addresses on the list. There is essentially no "human" intervention on the part of participating ISPs. ISPs do not have input into creating the list nor knowledge of what is contained on it.

F. In the rare event that a "legitimate" address is inadvertently filtered, an appeal process will be in place to correct the situation.

How the UK Prevents Children's Access to "*Porn on the Go*"

By John Carr

"On Safer Internet Day" on 6th February, the European Commission announced an EU-wide Memorandum of Understanding on protecting children and young teens in the mobile phone environment. All of Europe's major mobile phone networks signed up to it. The content providers and handset manufacturers are likely to follow suit.

The MoU is a voluntary, self-regulatory measure and the European Commission have made clear that they intend to watch very closely how the mobile industry responds. A deadline of February, 2007, was included in the MoU, the implication being that if satisfactory progress is not made on a voluntary basis then a more interventionist approach might be considered.

The MoU was negotiated by a group representing the mobile industry, the content industry and children's interests, with the Commission both holding the ring and driving forward the process. The agreement does not impact directly in any way on an adult's use of a mobile. It is all about protecting children and young people from adult content and services. It proposes to do this through a combination of the provision of technical tools and

information, linked to a range of awareness raising activities.

However, while the MoU is aimed at protecting minors, many adults will also welcome the new possibilities that the MoU creates, or at least that's how it worked out in the UK, where we have had this kind of thing going already for three years. The tools the mobile networks created mean that adults who want to avoid (legal) pornography and other adult services e.g. gambling, can easily do so.

It works like this in the UK: every mobile phone network, by default, assumes that the owner of every mobile phone handset is a child. This assumption can be rebutted by the owner/user of the handset proving to the mobile phone network that they are, in fact, an adult. Typically they would do this by giving their credit card number, or if they have been with the network for several years and have been paying by direct debit from the bank that would also do it.

Unless and until you have gone through this process of "lifting the adult bar", with all of the networks you will be unable to reach any of their chat/dating services, any of their porn services or gambling.