

FACT SHEET

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism is a project uniting the tourism sector and the children's rights non-governmental organization ECPAT International, aiming to prevent sexual exploitation of children at tourism destinations.

The Code was initiated in April 1998 by ECPAT Sweden in cooperation with Scandinavian tour operators and the World Tourism Organization (WTO). As of December 2009, the Code is implemented globally by more than 970 companies, including hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, tourism associations and tourism unions in 40 countries.

The Code was launched in North America, April in 2004 in New York by ECPAT USA, UNICEF and WTO. The Code encourages companies adopting it to commit themselves to:

1. Establish an ethical corporate policy against sexual exploitation of children.
2. Educate and train personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations.
3. Introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers that makes a common repudiation of sexual exploitation of children.
4. Develop information and awareness raising materials such as catalogues, brochures, posters, in-flight films, ticket-slips, home pages.
5. Provide information to local "key persons" at the destinations.
6. Report annually on the implementation of these criteria.

To make it easy to implement the Code a comprehensive information and training kit in CD ROM and print version are available. **To discuss signing on to the Code contact: Camelia Tepelus, Code Secretariat Coordinator, Tel. 718-935-9192 Fax. 718-935-9173 Email: camelia.tepelus@thecode.org**

ECPAT International is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand and is a network of organizations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It is represented today in every region of the world by 77 organizations in 70 countries.

The Code is an initiative of ECPAT International, UNICEF and the World Tourism Organization. Beyond Borders is the Canadian representative of ECPAT.

www.beyondborders.org; www.thecode.org; www.ecpat.net

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