

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



Type of intervention



Book/Guide

Target groups, level of prevention and sub-groups:

Situations
/ Places

Primary prevention

Young Adults, (18-20 Years), Adults (aged 21 Years + Years) | Male, Female | Book/Guide | English, Thai, Burmese

Target population

Organisations involved in travel and tourism, including tour operators, travel agencies and tourism associations.

Delivery organisation

World Tourism Organisation with ECPAT International. For more information see www.thecode.org.

Mode and context of delivery

An international code of conduct for organisations involved in travel and tourism, delivered through a membership scheme for those organisations which commit to implementing the code of conduct. Members are supported by a video, guidance on training and implementation and a Training CD Rom. Interactive online training is provided through the member portal in ten different languages; including English, Thai and Burmese.

Level/Nature of staff expertise required

The code is designed for implementation by travel and tourism professionals who are expected to undertake basic training on child protection and sexual exploitation of children and young people using the materials provided by the World Tourism Organisation.

Intensity/extent of engagement with target group(s)

The process for implementing the Code has five defined phases: declaration of purpose, preparation for implementation, implementation of six criteria, internal and external controls, and follow up. The length of time required to complete implementation will vary depending on the nature and size of the organisation.

Description of intervention

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism was initiated in Sweden in 1998 by ECPAT Sweden. It is currently implemented globally by over 40 companies involved in tourism and travel and sets the industry standard for how the sector seeks to prevent travel-based sexual exploitation of children and young people.

The Code includes background information; six criteria; advice on adapting the code; examples of how the code has been implemented by different organisations and a list of significant companies who have implemented the code. Organisations are required to commit to implementing the code and become members, which entitles them to online information, support and access to training resources.

The six criteria are as follows:

- Establish an ethical corporate policy against sexual exploitation of children
- Educate and train personnel in both country of origin and travel destination
- Introduce clause in contracts with suppliers that makes a common repudiation of sexual exploitation of children
- Provide information to local key persons at destination
- Annual reporting on implementation of these criteria.

Members are provided with guidance on organising training sessions and materials to support a comprehensive training programme organised into three modules. The ECPAT Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism: An ECPAT Training Resource Kit (2008) includes sample slides, notes for trainers, exercises and handouts, plus exemplars of different aspects of the code. The three modules are:

- Module 1: Raising awareness on child sex-tourism
- Module 2: Ensuring child protection
- Module 3: What you can do to combat child sex-tourism.

Training is also available in the form of a Training CD Rom which becomes available once organisations have signed up to the code. Interactive online training, which is scenario based, is available through the members portal.

Guidance is also provided on how to implement the code and a five phase process is recommended which includes establishing controls and procedures for monitoring implementation and compliance.

Evaluation

No information available

References

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Steering Committee on the Code of Conduct.

World Tourism Organization, ECPAT International, Interpol, International Hotel and Restaurants Association, Tourism Authority of Thailand, EMBRATUR, Tour Operators' Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development, Federation of International Youth Travel Organizations, Japan Committee for UNICEF

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Available as pdf on http://www.unicef.org/lac/code_of_conduct.pdf

ECPAT Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism: An ECPAT Training Resource Kit (2008) Luc Ferran, Giorgio Beradi, Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon.

http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/ECPAT_CST_Code_Toolkit.pdf

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