



THE GLOBAL STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Global Study presents recommendations addressing international and regional inter-governmental bodies; non-governmental organisations; law enforcement agencies; national governments and the private sector. The recommendations of the Study resulted in concrete commitments at global, regional and national levels that were presented at the first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism in Bogotá, Colombia (6-7 June 2018).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

NGOs can play a key role by monitoring SECTT and bridging gaps left by national governments in the areas described below.

- Expose companies that advertise commercial sex with minors with a particular focus on online advertisement
- **Raise public awareness** about SECTT and the role citizens, including children can play in its prevention
- Identify and document best practice models in SECTT prevention and care
- Provide high-quality **recovery and rehabilitation services** for SECTT victims where governments do not provide such services
- Build partnerships and capacity within the tourism industry to recognise and address incidents of SECTT
- Develop **codes of conduct** and child protection policies for (national and international) employees and volunteers who come into contact with children and ensure police clearances
- Undertake more **research** on SECTT to inform policy and action

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

National governments have a direct responsibility to protect children from SECTT, whether they are countries of country of demand, supply or victimisation.

- Develop and promote **reporting systems** that allow children and citizens to report incidents without fear
- Ensure that child-sensitive services are available and regulated by quality standards, implemented by knowledgeable, well-trained staff with adequate resources and easily accessible to all children
- **Ratify and implement all relevant international child rights instruments and revise national laws accordingly:**
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989, and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2002
 - Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OP₃ CRC), 2014
 - Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, 2000
 - ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour No.182

The following Council of Europe Conventions:

- Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, CETS No.201, 2007
- Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, CETS No. 197, 2005
- Convention on Cybercrime, CETS No. 185, 2001

- **Ensure that national legal frameworks address SECTT adequately by:**

- formulating SECTT as a separately identifiable crime in national laws
- enacting progressive extraterritorial legislation and unconditional extradition laws and defining reoffending as aggravating circumstance, regardless of whether the crimes were perpetrated abroad or in-country
- ensuring that statutory limitations do not apply to child victims of CSEC

- adopting an age of consent of 18 years, or ensuring that offences committed against children aged 15 to 18 years old are criminalised when the sexual acts are exploitative (such as prostitution or pornography) or where there has been abuse of a relationship of trust, authority or dependency
- criminalising grooming and attempts to procure sex with a minor
- excluding SECTT crimes from bail
- regulating the obligations of employers to obtain police clearances and implement codes of conduct for national and international employees and volunteers who have direct contact with children
- increasing maximum penalties for SECTT-related offences, given their serious impact on child victims
- imposing more severe sentences for recidivists who commit sexual offences against children
- providing criteria to determine sexual consent between peers, to avoid misunderstanding and clarify non-exploitative situations
- making it obligatory to report any suspected sexual exploitation of a child, with strong sanctions for noncompliance; developing protection mechanisms for those who report the crime; accepting reasonable anonymous complaints as sufficient evidence to open an investigation.
- **Strengthen law enforcement and international cooperation to combat SECTT by:**
 - ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the resources and skills to identify, investigate and respond to SECTT and are able to use child-friendly methods when dealing with child victims and witnesses, and that enforcement is not undermined by corruption or social tolerance for SECTT
 - enhancing the regular exchange of up to date information about travelling child sex offenders among law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions of countries of demand, supply and victimisation, including greater use of the following tools: INTERPOL 'Green Notice' for convicted sex offenders who are likely to reoffend in other countries; denying entry to convicted child sex offenders who are likely to reoffend; the development of sex offender registries that comply with international standards on confidentiality and privacy; international police clearance systems
 - investing in the development of analytical tools and new investigative techniques to enable law enforcement to identify perpetrators and rescue victims
 - deploying police liaison officers in destinations that are popular with travelling child sex offenders, with destination countries facilitating the work of these professionals
 - cooperation across agencies and borders among the police and judiciary to allow exchange of information for investigations and prosecution of every case where a person is suspected or accused of having sexually exploited a child in another country
- Invest in **quality rehabilitation and reintegration programmes** for child victims of SECTT
- **Collect national data** and/or build national capacity to develop disaggregated data-gathering and monitoring systems to inform policy and action on SECTT
- **Adopt mandatory policies** to protect children in new public or private tourism developments, including the obligation to conduct thorough human-rights impact assessments
- **Establish government-regulated child protection standards for the tourism industry**
- Ensure that the use of volunteers in institutions where children are present is closely regulated through, for example, international police clearances and codes of conduct
- Raise public awareness about SECTT and the sanctions on the crime
- Ensure that law enforcement and justice system personnel understand the importance of SECTT and the particular needs of child victims
- Recognise children as agents of change and encourage their involvement in planning and policy-making related to SECTT
- Invest in **child empowering prevention programmes** to address the root causes and multiple vulnerabilities that place children, families and communities at risk
- **Promote child protective social norms** through community development projects, and the media, including social media
- **Create incentives for companies** that prioritise child protection
- **Fight corruption**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES

Companies active in sectors that play a role in SECTT are in a unique position: they can have a direct impact on protecting children from this crime. They cannot be passive bystanders, but should be actively involved in the protection of children's rights.

Travel, tourism and transportation companies (spanning both the public and private sectors):

- Sign the UNWTO Code of Ethics
- Ensure **compliance with Human Rights and Business Principles and Children's Rights and Business Principles**
- Sign the **Code of Conduct** for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism or - at a minimum - adopt and enforce explicit corporate policies against SECTT and prioritise training on SECTT prevention and response for travel and tourism professionals
- Seek to ensure that small- and medium-size firms and the informal travel and tourism sector are aware of the issue and adhere to a code of conduct to prevent SECTT
- Build the awareness and understanding of other sectors, such as businesses with travelling staff and the extractive industries
- Ensure that organisations that receive volunteers have **adequate child protection systems** in place to guarantee the safety of children, including international police clearances, reporting mechanisms and a code of conduct. Similarly, develop codes of conduct for national and international employees and volunteers in contact with children and ensure police clearances
- Raise awareness about SECTT among travelers and tourists
- Cooperate with, and **report to**, law enforcement

ICT industry

- Engage and mobilise industry leaders to develop technology-based solutions to combat SECTT such as blocking payment for SECTT-related offences and developing new techniques to 'follow the money' and undermine the business model of SECTT offenders and their intermediaries
- Collaborate with other ICT companies and law enforcement agencies to disrupt financial gains of offenders, criminal networks and intermediaries and to develop analytical tools and new investigative techniques to enable law enforcement to identify perpetrators and rescue victims
- Ensure compliance with Human Rights and Business Principles and Children's Rights and Business Principles
- Adopt and enforce explicit corporate policies against SECTT

Companies whose staff members travel for business

All companies sending employees on business travel have a role to play in educating their employees on conduct that is acceptable or unacceptable and the importance of protecting children against SECTT.

- Undertake travel with child safe travel and tourism businesses, preferably members of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism or - at a minimum - with business that have adopted and enforce explicit corporate policies against SECTT and prioritise training on SECTT prevention and response for travel and tourism professionals
- Ensure compliance with Human Rights and Business Principles and Children's Rights and Business Principles
- Adopt and implement a code of conduct for travelling employees
- Ensure police clearances if staff are going to be in contact with children during their business travel

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Regional and international bodies must position the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism on their political agendas, to ensure that international and regional commitments can be met.

- for the **UNWTO to advocate for the conversion of the Code of Ethics for Tourism into an international convention** into an international convention and its ratification by member states
- for UN and regional Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms to systematically review the situation of SECTT in member states and measures taken to protect children from SECTT and ensure access to justice of victims
- for the issue of SECTT to be specifically recognized and monitored as part of scope of action of **international and regional human rights mechanisms** including the Human Rights Council, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Lanzarote Committee and the African Committee of Experts on the rights and Welfare of the Child, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, etc.
- for the issue of SECTT to be explicitly acknowledged and addressed by **regional entities** such as the European Union, the Association of South East Asian States (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the African Union, the Council of Baltic States, the Organisation of America States (OAS), the Pacific Islands Forum, etc.
- **for SECTT to be included in the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the UN Sustainable Development Goals targets that address the sexual exploitation of children**, i.e. Targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2.
- for the UN General Assembly to ensure implementation of the recommendations and to strengthen the UN's response to sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations Personnel in the areas of prevention, enforcement and remedial action, as presented in the Report to the UN Secretary General of 16 February 2016.



ECPAT International acknowledges the overall funding support for its programme on child protection in travel and tourism from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands through Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands.

ECPAT further acknowledges the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Oak Foundation, Human Dignity Foundation (HDF), Terre des Hommes Netherlands, and Irish Aid, whose funding support contributes to the various activities in the global and regional SECTT programmes.