

The Code Quarterly

International Newsletter No. 30 October - December 2011

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<http://www.facebook.com/TheCodeofConduct>



Carlson Responsible Business team including BJ Lunde and Brenda Schultz, together with the performers of "Project Girl" at the ECPAT USA 20 years anniversary on Nov 29, 2011. NY



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Highlight

The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (TheCode.org) confirms organizational expansion with SECO financial support
(Press release)

Dec 1, 2011 – The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (TheCode.org) has the pleasure of informing membership on moving into a new stage of development, thanks to the financial support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). SECO funding for the period 2012-2014 will allow a significant organizational expansion and development of the Code organization. Starting immediately, the Code will initiate the process of establishment of a new Headquarters office in Bangkok, Thailand to be operationally supported by Regional Offices for Americas and Europe. This will be carried out with the organizational assistance of ECPAT International, who will initially host the Code Headquarters Office.
(continued p.2)

Calendar of events Dec-March 2012

Date	Place	Main organizer, Event, Participation
Until Jan 31, 2012	Geneva	Call for nominations 'Business Leaders' Award to Fight Human Trafficking' (EHTN)
Jan 23	Bristol	Victims of trafficking and the Law: issues of Identification (University of the West of England)
Jan 9-15	Portland, OR	4 TH Annual Northwest Conference against Trafficking and Film Festival
March 9	Berlin	UNWTO Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism
March 10	Berlin	TheCode.org Annual General Meeting 2012
March 12 (tbc)	London	UNICEF. – Save the Children – UN Global Compact launch Children's Rights and Business Principles Initiative

**INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BEFORE
March 23, 2012**



The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, is an industry-driven responsible tourism initiative, in collaboration with ECPAT, co-funded by UNICEF and supported by the UNWTO.

www.thecode.org

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

Secretariat Coordinator, Dr. Camelia Tepelus

● The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (TheCode.org) confirms organizational expansion with SECO financial support (Press release, continued from p.1)

The Board of Directors also announces the recruitment of Andreas Astrup as General Manager for the Code Bangkok Headquarters, who will assume the position starting Dec 1, 2011. Andreas Astrup has previous experience as Head of Planning at Amnesty International in Copenhagen and is a Danish citizen. Starting Jan 1, 2012 the Code NY office will become Regional Office for Americas and in 2013 the Code Regional Office for Europe will be established in Berlin. The Code trusts that this expansion will allow us to better assist the Code members in their work promoting and implementing the Code, and to support more the Local Code Representatives in the future. Over the last decade, the Code organization received wide international recognition as an instrument of social responsibility and child protection in tourism, being acknowledged with distinctions including: the *Tourism for Tomorrow Award* (2003), the *Ending Human Slavery Award* (2008), the *Ethical Corporation Award* (2010), the *Business-Leaders Award to Fight Human Trafficking* (2010), etc. The Code private sector membership reached over 1000 companies in 42 countries including leading travel and tourism companies such as Accor, Kuoni, Carlson, Delta, etc, and continues growing steadily.

We thank all our members for your engagement in promoting the cause of responsible tourism and for protecting children’s rights worldwide. We thank our strategic partners UNICEF and UNWTO for their ongoing support to the Code.

● Introduction Andreas Astrup - General Manager for the Code Bangkok Headquarters

Andreas Astrup took office as the Code General Manager starting from Dec 1, 2011. He is a Danish citizen, with a background an international and organizational background and over seven years leadership experience.



He has extensive experience in project management and organizational development, including strategy and evaluation last serving as Head of Planning for Amnesty International in Copenhagen. He also manages the IT-company BITMA specialized in web development, developing educational websites for Nepenthes and Amnesty and having expertise with databases; e-learning, web development and Microsoft Office applications. He is a Danish citizen and has 2 children.

Between Dec 5-8, Andreas visited the Code Secretariat office in NY meeting the Code Secretariat Coordinator Dr. Camelia Tepelus, learning about the Code operations and planning future developments. Andreas also met other key stakeholders in NY including ECPAT USA, UNICEF, UN Global Compact, as well as the Soros Open Society Foundation.

● Notification – Code AGM 2012 date: March 10, 2012, am, Berlin.

The Code Annual General Meeting 2012 will take place in relation to the ITB proceedings in Berlin, on **Saturday, March 10, 2012, am** (venue to be confirmed). Further information, draft Agenda, BoD and Secretariat reports, and additional documentation to follow.

● Code presentation at Europol Expert Meeting, Nov 8-10, Hague

The Code Secretariat Coordinator was invited to make a presentation at the Europol Annual Child Sexual Exploitation Expert Meeting, 8-10 November 2011 held in Hague, for an audience of law enforcement representatives. The importance for law enforcement collaboration with the private sector was again highlighted in this context. Follow-up discussions for a closer partnership with the Virtual Global Taskforce will be further explored.



● **Reminder – revised system of membership fees for TheCode.org from Jan 2012**

The Code Secretariat would like to remind all Code partners – Local Code Representatives and members – that the membership fee system for TheCode.org has been revised at the AGM 2011. As of Jan 1, 2012, the classification of members and the fees due to TheCode.org is as follows:

Membership fees applicable starting with 2012

Starting with the financial year 2012, the fees applicable for Code private sector members are:

a. For category I tourism companies (revenues under 500,000 Euro/year)	Euro 50/year
b. For category II tourism companies (revenues between 500,000 and 2.5 Mil Euro/year):	Euro 300/year
c. For category III companies (revenues between 2.5 Mil and 50 Mil Euro/year):	Euro 800/year
d. For category IV companies (revenues over 50 Mil Euro/year):	Euro 2,000/year

Action: Upon AGM 2011 approval, the corresponding membership fee system to be used by the Code Secretariat staff, LCRs and private sector members starting 2012.

● **Completion of the Code assessment project commissioned by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre**



During 2011, the Code Board, UNICEF NY Headquarters and the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence collaborated on a research project focused on assessing the impact of implementation of the Code and make recommendations for the future development of the initiative. The project documented the Code development in 3 case study countries (Thailand, Costa Rica and the Netherlands), and provided extensive recommendations for the strategic development of the Code in the future. The assessment report is in the last stages of editing, aiming for the final report to be ready for the AGM 2012.

● **Preliminary overview – Facts and Figures: Code achievements in 2011**

- **38** new companies became Code members in **10** countries
- Ratification of standardized LCR Agreement, and **18** agreements signed in **17** countries
- Successful completion of a detailed assessment exercise carried out by UNICEF Innocenti Research Center
- End of 7 year institutional funding from UNICEF, starting of new funding partnership with SECO (Swiss government) for a 3 year project
- Hiring of Code General Manager for forthcoming Code Bangkok headquarters and Americas Regional Office from 2012

Dr. Camelia Tepelus, the Code Secretariat Coordinator/Regional Americas Manager is also proud to have welcomed arrival of baby girl Olivia in April 2011, and thanks everybody for the well wishes.

2. IBCR, One Child, Plan Canada

Source: https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Eyes-on-Patrol-Restez-vigilant/247577048638804?sk=app_288619397840311

● **'Put your eyes on patrol' Facebook campaign**

International Bureau on Children's Rights, One Child and Plan Canada joined forces launching a Facebook campaign mobilizing the public to become aware of sexual exploitation of children in tourism. The main campaign message is "Let them know you're watching; Put your eyes on patrol".

Facebook members endorsing the campaign can add the police sunglasses to their profile picture to show that they are vigilant and part of the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.



3. Beyond Borders, Canada

Deborah Zanke, Dec 8, 2011

● WestJet becomes ally in fight against child sexual exploitation

In September 2011, WestJet joined Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada as its ally in the fight against child sexual exploitation. WestJet supports Beyond Borders through the gift of flight as well as by increasing awareness of the issue through social media, Up! Magazine (WestJet's inflight magazine), and westjet.com. The Canadian airline offers low cost, scheduled service throughout its 71-city North American and Caribbean network.



Mark Hecht, Beyond Borders

● Keynote at Beyond Borders Media Awards reveals power of new media

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada presented its annual Beyond Borders Media Awards on November 21 to a sold out crowd. This year's keynote speaker was Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada co-founder, Mark E. Hecht. (...) The Beyond Borders Media Awards recognize the contribution that investigative journalism makes towards combating child sexual exploitation. Two of Beyond Borders key travel and tourism partners, Transat A.T. Inc. and West Jet were major event sponsors. Find out more about the awards and this year's winners at beyondborders.org on the "media awards" page.

4. Belize

● Special Envoy Lobbying for Harsher Laws on Sex Crimes against Children, commending BTIA and BTB for their engagement against child sex tourism

Source: Shane D. Williams, Oct 6, 2011,

http://www.guardian.bz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3858:special-envoy-lobbying-for-harsher-laws-on-sex-crimes-against-children&catid=59:other-news&Itemid=88

On Wednesday, October 5th, the Special Envoy for Women and Children, Mrs. Kim Simplis-Barrow, hosted a workshop on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in the tourism industry. The topic of sex crimes involving children is currently the focus of formal and informal news in Belize today. Two recent domestic cases have caused public outrage. However, Mrs. Barrow is calling everyone to arms to fight all forms of sexual exploitation of Belizean children. She asked, "When you look into the eyes of some of our Belizean children, will you feel their pain? Will you feel their shame and guilt for the things that have happened to them for which they had no control?" She continued, "The commercial sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual violence that continues to be perpetrated on our children is inexcusable."



Kim Simplis-Barrow, hosting a workshop on CSEC in tourism

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is an ugly factor in the tourism industry that we have chosen to ignore. That will no longer be the case. Mrs. Barrow said, "We can no longer treat sexual exploitation and abuse as taboo issues, when they are so rampant in our society." The Belize Tourism Board and the Belize Tourism Industry Association collaborated with the office of the Special Envoy to host the workshop. Mrs. Barrow said we welcome tourists who come to enjoy our "sandy beaches, vibrant diving grounds, breathtaking Mayan temples, and pristine forests... our economy has come to depend on them". However, she said we must send a very clear message to those who come to Belize to seek and prey upon "our most

precious and valuable resource- OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE". She commended the BTB and BTIA for stepping up to fight CSEC because they play an important role since it is the tour operators, tour guides and hoteliers at the forefront of the industry who can help to identify and report perpetrators.

Jim Scott, President of the Belize Tourism Industry Association and General Manager of the Radisson, spoke about his experience with sexual predators in the tourism industry. The Radisson has signed onto the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism." One of the incidents he experienced was when an airline company called to book rooms for distress passengers (flight passengers that need to book rooms last minute due to flight cancellation). The front desk team noticed that one of the male passengers was accompanied

by a young Belizean girl. Professionalism prevented the staff from interrogating about the young girl. The man registered a room for one. The training that the staff undergo caused the front desk personnel to alert the security and ensure that the man does not enter the room with the young girl. When he attempted to do so the security stopped him by letting him know that the girl cannot enter the room because she is not a registered guest. The man took the young girl to the restaurant and somehow eventually managed to get her to the room. The staff called the police and they came and took the girl away. It is not known if the man was charged in that instance but Scott said there have been instances where sexual predators visiting the Radisson have been charged based on staff reports to police. He said, "The real sad thing is to imagine the amount that we haven't been able to stop." He said it is a known fact that there are tour guides and taxi men who provide such service for tourists. They find young girls and boys for them. Some put it more bluntly, "They are pimping out our children." Hon. Peter Eden Martinez, Minister of Human Development, also commended the BTB and BTIA on their commitment to fight CSEC. He said we all need to do our part to stop this destructive practice. His ministry is working along with the office of the Special Envoy on a number of initiatives to raise awareness on CSEC in Belize. Those include the launch of the national plan against CSEC which Mrs. Barrow hopes to accomplish by the end of this year.

At the opening of the workshop a Public Service Announcement premiered which highlighted the workshop's theme: "Let us not by inaction be accomplices to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children". The PSA is the first of a series that focuses on sex tourism and local exploitation. In addition to the PSAs, the Special Envoy has partnered with UNICEF and is working on the production of a "good touch, bad touch" story book to help parents and teachers speak to their children about sexual abuse. The most progressive move to combat CSEC is a lobbying effort to get the legislature to pass harsher laws on sex crimes against children. Amendments have already been presented to the Attorney General's Ministry for final vetting before proceeding to Cabinet. The workshop was a follow up to the National Symposium on CSEC held in August of 2010

5. MAIS (ECPAT) Dominican Republic

● **Signing of the Code of Conduct and the first training workshop with the hotel group Complejo Grand Palladium, Punta Cana and Dominican Fiesta, Santo Domingo.**



Dec 15-17 December, 2011, Bavaro, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

During 15 – 17 December 2011, the coordinators from MAIS, together with staff of the Gran Palladium Punta Cana group held 3 workshop meetings with personnel of hotel group Fiesta in Bavaro Punta Cana, as a part of the commitments assumed by the Fiesta group to sign up for the Code, confirming their engagement for social responsibility and the protection of human rights according to the articles, a, b, and c from art 2 of the Code of Ethics in Tourism of UNWTO.



Management team of Fiesta Hotel Group and MAIS at the Code signing event

61 hotel staff took part in the activities in relation to the signing of the Code of Conduct, from different sections of the company, including the human resources managers, public relations and a night manager, 11 members of the security teams, 9 reception staff and 9 supervisors. These participants found of vital importance that basic checks should be in place to avoid entry in the hotel of adults accompanied by minors, that may be at risk of being sexually exploited. Other aspects noted during this first day were the need for trainings for the 6 'bell boys', and also personnel of events, bars, entertainment, general supervision, quality control and floor managers.

The training focused on sharing information on human rights and children's rights, sexual exploitation in the context of tourism, and the application of the code of conduct; this information was accompanied by two videos, one regarding the national situation concerning sexual exploitation of children, and another, presenting 4 situations in the context of Tourism (at a travel agency, in a hotel, in a bar and in a taxi).

During the workshops the participants showed high interest and their interventions indicated a commitment to put in place actions to protect children. On the 17th morning, the Agreement of joining the Code was signed by the Financial Manager of the hotel group, accompanied by the representatives of the main 3 management areas of the hotel.

With this signature, Fiesta Hotel group becomes the first hotel chain in Dominican Republic and Caribbean to assume a social commitment to implement the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children, in collaboration with TheCode.org and ECPAT International.

6. Mexico - Via Humanita and RMHA
Amaya Renobales (Via Humanita)



● Rosewood, Fairmont and Banyan Tree sign the Code at Mayakoba Resort on Riviera Maya

Located at the Mexican Riviera Maya Resort called Mayakoba, the three exclusive hotels Rosewood, Fairmont and Banyan Tree took the stand together against Child Sex Trafficking in Tourism and signed the Code. The signing private event took place on December 6th, 2011.

Mr. Maximilian Lennkh, VP Area General Manager from Banyan Tree, Mr. Pablo Enrique Graf Solís, Regional Vice President and Managing Director of Rosewood Hotel and Mr. Ian L. Robinson, V.P. Regional and General Director of México y el Caribe, from Fairmont Hotel signed together with Jimena Farah, Training Director of the Riviera Maya Hotel Association and Amaya Renobales, Via Humanita's President.

Within the project of Prevention of Sex Trafficking in Teenagers in Cancun and the Riviera Maya funded by USAID, the civil association Via Humanita has been giving support to the Riviera Maya Hotel Association, Local Representative of the Code, in the assessment to the three hotels to sign the Code.

Following the signature, a few days later the three hotels were trained by Via Humanita in three different sessions in which 48 staff members from Human Resources, Training and Security areas, among others, were prepared to implement the Code and reply the information to the rest of employees.



Trainings and signing of the Code by Mayakoba hotels in Riviera Maya, Mexico, supported by Amaya Renobales (Via Humanita) and Jimena Farah Riviera Maya Hotel Association)

The Code Secretariat would like to acknowledge and thank Amaya Renobales (via Humanita President and ECPAT USA staff person) for her special contribution and ongoing support to the Code development in Cancun and Riviera Maya, and for the translation of the Local Code Representative Agreement in Spanish. Thank you Amaya!

7. ECPAT USA

Michelle Guelbart, Dec 22, 2011



www.WyndhamWorldwide.com

● **Wyndham Worldwide Corporation and ECPAT-USA release a joint statement about Wyndham's membership to the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct.**

Wyndham will implement policies that condemn child trafficking and provide training to help their employees and hotel franchisees identify and report trafficking activities. Wyndham will also raise awareness among its business partners, franchisees, and customers by including information about the issue and The Code through its website and meetings, and by annually reporting on its progress. (See the Press Release in entirety below.)

New York, NY (November 23, 2011) – ECPAT-USA announced that Wyndham Worldwide has become the latest major hospitality company to take a stand against the commercial sexual exploitation of children by signing the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (The Code). While The Code has been signed by more than 1,000 travel industry members worldwide, Wyndham Worldwide, one of the world's largest hospitality companies, is only the fifth U.S. company to sign. As a subscriber to The Code, Wyndham will implement policies that condemn child trafficking and provide training to help their employees and hotel franchisees identify and report trafficking activities. Wyndham will also raise awareness among its business partners, franchisees, and customers by including information about the issue and The Code through its website and meetings, and by annually reporting on its progress.

According to Carol Smolenski, Executive Director of ECPAT-USA, a nonprofit organization that advocates for policies to protect sexually exploited children, the purpose of The Code is to prevent and mitigate child trafficking, as well as encourage a socially responsible, child-wise tourism industry. "We are so happy to welcome Wyndham Worldwide to the growing community of companies that are helping in the fight against the sex trafficking of children," said Smolenski. "All travel properties could unwittingly be used as venues for this purpose. If they do nothing to raise awareness or to prevent child trafficking, they risk becoming an indirect and unintentional conduit for the abuse that takes place."

"As a family-oriented company, we are proud to join with ECPAT in our shared commitment to the safety of all children," says Mary Falvey, executive vice president and chief human resources officer, Wyndham Worldwide. "Unfortunately, as long as there are people profiting from this tragic practice, no member of the tourism industry can ever guarantee these events will not occur in the future. Nonetheless, we firmly believe that collaborations like this play a critical role in increasing awareness and prevention that can make a difference."

The addition of such a large company such as Wyndham to The Code membership is being applauded by several groups supporting ECPAT. "Being aware of the ways that traffickers may use a company's premises helps companies be active partners in identifying and preventing child exploitation around the world," said Julie Tanner, assistant director of Socially Responsible Investing at Christian Brothers Investment Services, a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a coalition of active shareholders who view their investment management as a catalyst for change. "We applaud Wyndham for its leadership and for taking a proactive approach as a global corporate citizen committed to the safety of children."

Other U.S. organizations that have signed The Code include Global Exchange's Reality Tours, Hilton Worldwide (with pilot projects in two cities), Delta Air Lines, and Carlson Companies, whose brands include Radisson Hotels.

● **Nix Conference & Meeting Management Company to become the first ever Meeting Planner to sign the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct.**



7119 Manchester Road - Saint Louis, Missouri 63143 - ph 314.645.1455 - fx 314.645.4130 - NixAssoc.com

Nix is the first meeting planning company in the U.S. to sign a Meeting Planner's Code of Conduct, which they developed in cooperation with ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking). They will sign the new code on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, during a Human Trafficking Awareness Day event at the Soulard Preservation Hall, 1921 South Ninth Street, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (See the Press Release in entirety below.)

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI – Nix Conference & Meeting Management is leading the charge among meeting planners worldwide to help end child sex trafficking. Nix is initiating a first-ever Meeting Planners Code of Conduct in January, Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and encouraging

industry peers and competitors to join them in addressing the issue at every hotel where they do business.

“Child sex trafficking is widespread, occurring right now even at luxury hotels in the United States,” said Kimberly Ritter, Senior Account Manager and coordinator of Nix’ initiative to fight child sex trafficking. “Most hotel executives have no idea this exploitation of children exists at their properties. Once they become aware, however, they can establish policies and train staff to identify and take action against child sex trafficking.”

Nix is the first meeting planning company in the U.S. to sign a Meeting Planner’s Code of Conduct, which they developed in cooperation with ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking). They will sign the new code on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, during a Human Trafficking Awareness Day event at the Soulard Preservation Hall, 1921 South Ninth Street, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. “As meeting and conference planners, we are using our close ties with hotel general managers and other professional resources to raise awareness and help end child sex trafficking,” said Molly Hackett, Principal at Nix. “This is a wonderful and groundbreaking way to address the issue of child protection in tourism,” said Michelle Guelbart, M.S.W., Private Sector Project Coordinator of ECPATUSA. “Working with Nix in the conference and meeting management sector is going to open doors that we did not have the resources or connections to access in the past.” Nix has an extensive reach in the hotel industry, researching more than 700 hotels and visiting more than 50 hotels both within the U. S. and internationally on behalf of their clients each year. As part of their commitment to end child sex trafficking, Nix recently added a clause to their standard Request for Proposal inquiring about hotel policies on human trafficking.

“One hotel responded to our question on human trafficking policies by saying they have pedestrian crosswalks in front of their entrance,” said Jane Quinn, Principal at Nix. “Traffickers, unfortunately, depend on that kind of naivety to carry out their operations.” Nix discusses child sex trafficking and exploitation in one-on-one meetings with hotel general managers, provides written materials, and encourages them to sign the ECPAT-USA Code of Conduct for hotels.

Nix Conference & Meeting Management first learned about the issue of child sex trafficking in hotels three years ago when a client, the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph, asked them to inquire about hotel policies on human trafficking while researching sites for a conference. “This was a request and an issue we had not heard about before,” said Jane Quinn. “As we researched it, we realized we could have a real impact on this crisis.” In collaboration with the Sisters of St. Joseph, Nix successfully encouraged the Millennium Hotel St. Louis to sign the ECPAT-USA Code of Conduct for hotels in July 2011. That experience inspired Nix to develop a similar code of conduct for their own niche in the industry -- meeting and conference planners.

“The bubble of people in our industry who are aware of child sex trafficking is growing every day,” said Molly Hackett. “Our goal is increase that awareness. We hope that one day soon, we’ll be able to provide our clients with a choice of hotels that are proactive on this issue.”

Meeting planners who adopt the Meeting Planner’s Code of Conduct agree to establish an internal social responsibility policy, implement an action plan with objectives and timeframes, and report annually. For more information on the code, contact Kimberly Ritter at (314) 645-1455 or kritter@nixassoc.com. Nix Conference & Meeting Management, based in St. Louis, has managed meetings, conferences and trade shows for associations, religious organizations, businesses and nonprofits since 1985. Nix has managed events on four continents and in 17 countries.

● **The Sixth Annual Symposium entitled: “The Five Elements of Civil Society”. A new approach to participation in Combating Trafficking in Persons”.**

B-J Lunde, the EVP People Development, Responsible Business and Safety & Security was invited to speak on behalf of Carlson and share our story on the many initiatives we have taken both inside and outside the company on the subject of child exploitation and trafficking. Carlson Companies has hosted this event an impressive 6 times! (See the full story below.)

On November 7, 2011, The Protection Project at The John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) a human rights research and training institute based in Washington DC held its Sixth Annual Symposium entitled: “The Five Elements of Civil Society”. A new approach to participation in Combating Trafficking in Persons”. The Symposium investigated the role of civil society in combating trafficking in persons defined broadly to include non-governmental organizations, academia, corporations, media and religious organizations.

The Symposium brought together prominent experts, scholars, and practitioners who discussed best practices, lessons learned and challenges in combating trafficking at the international,

national, federal and state levels. Government officials and representatives of NGOs also attended the event.

Beathe-Jeanette Lunde (B-J), EVP People Development, Responsible Business and Safety & Security was invited to speak on behalf of Carlson and share our story on the many initiatives we have taken both inside and outside the company on the subject of child exploitation and trafficking.

Following B-J's keynote, Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Senior Research Professor of International Law and Executive Director, The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies handed over a beautiful award in scripted: On behalf of all Carlsonians, B-J thanked Dr. Mattar for such a nice recognition, and encouraged everyone to continue to create awareness of this criminal industry - trafficking.



B-J Lunde and Mohammed Mattar

● **Carlson Companies expands their work to protect children in tourism into Carlson Wagonlit Travel.**



CWT is the first global travel management company to educate travelers about the presence of child sex tourism and to provide a means for reporting suspicious activity. (See the Press Release in entirety below.)

MINNEAPOLIS, November 16, 2011 – Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT), a global leader specialized in business travel and meetings and events management, announced today that it will introduce advisories on electronic itineraries issued in the U.S. to specified destinations known for the sexual exploitation of children. The advisories, issued on itineraries to certain countries, are intended to raise travelers' awareness of this illegal practice. Travelers will also be provided with a dedicated hotline number and are urged to report any suspicious situations or behavior.

The advisory states, "UNICEF reports that trafficking in children for purposes of sexual exploitation is a global problem. The U.S. State Department advises its citizens that engaging in illicit sexual conduct with minors is a crime and, if committed outside the U.S, is punishable upon return to the United States. Travelers can help by reporting suspicious activity to the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888. When calling from outside the U.S.: + 1-202-507-7966. Carlson Wagonlit Travel supports the protection of the world's children."

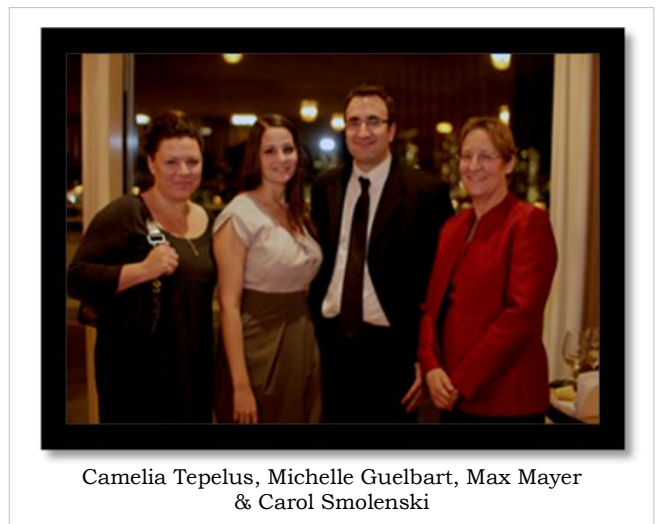
In 2004, Carlson, the majority shareholder of CWT, was the first U.S.-based global travel and hospitality company to sign the travel industry's Code of Conduct to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. Since then, Carlson has been joined by two large U.S. hotel brands and a global airline, which have committed to combating the use of children for this purpose. CWT, as a Carlson company, joins this combat by supporting this initiative.

"Carlson has pioneered corporate involvement in this issue," said Luis CdeBaca, U.S. State Department Ambassador-at-large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. "They have set the standard with their efforts to raise awareness of child sex tourism."

● **ECPAT-USA Proudly Celebrated 20 Years.**

ECPAT-USA proudly celebrated twenty years of protecting children from sexual exploitation at an exciting event in New York City on November 30. Both long-time supporters and newcomers came to hear about our accomplishments and to see a theater piece written and performed by the amazing and talented Project Girl Performance Collective.

Special thanks to supporters who donated silent auction items: Carlson Companies, Delta, Hilton Worldwide, The Body Shop International, Choice Hotels, Krav Maga Academy, & VeeV Açai Spirit; Gold sponsors: M&T Bank, Mercy Investment Services, & the Shimkin Foundation.



Camelia Tepelus, Michelle Guelbart, Max Mayer & Carol Smolenski

8. ECPAT France

Marie-Astrid Mondot, Dec 7, 2011

● ECPAT FRANCE: Newly appointed as a Local Code Representative for France and Senegal

In November 2011, ECPAT FRANCE has required the board of the Code of Conduct to become the Local Code Representative (LCR) for France and Senegal. As LCR, ECPAT France would now exploit the possibilities to develop the Code and its principles through various projects with the French Home Ministry and the European Union.

● TRANSAT: training plan of the employees



ECPAT France is building a partnership with the Canadian/ French group Transat, Vacances transat and Look voyages in order to set up a training plan for all employees. Transat is one of the most important tourist actors in France and with its travel agencies, offers flights and accommodations in hotels in 17 destinations around the world to its customers. This partnership with such a big company like Transat is a good support for ECPAT France to enhance the fight against child sex tourism.

9. Kuoni Holding

Stephanie Keller, Project Officer Corporate Responsibility, Dec 5, 2011



● Kuoni hosts series of workshops in the Dominican Republic

As part of its continued commitment to the Code since becoming a signatory in 2006, Kuoni Travel hosted workshops in Puerto Plata and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic on 26 and 28 September, 2011 to raise awareness and encourage business partners to develop interventions against the sexual exploitation of children.



Participants in the workshop in Punta Cana included management and staff from Fiesta Hotel Group, Melia, Barcelo and Dreams hotels, among others

In collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and local ECPAT representatives MAIS (Movimiento Para el Auto-desarrollo. Internacional de la Solidaridad de Puerto Plata), 35 hoteliers and representatives of hotel associations and local governments participated in the events. Participants committed to six-month action plans which included various activities related to employee training and customer awareness.

10. ECPAT Spain - FAPMI

Selma Fernandes Vergara, Dec 23, 2011



In 1997, the Catalan Association against Childhood Maltreatment (Asociación Catalana para la Infancia Maltratada - ACIM) was recognized as official representative in Spain for the ECPAT International network, dedicating part of its efforts to the promotion and defense of children and teenage rights, and establishing action lines to combat sexual exploitation of children in all its forms.

With the objective of improve the effectiveness and reach of these actions, ACIM, as Local Code Representatives, has recently decided in the contest of its General Assembly to propose that the Federation of Associations for the Prevention of Child Abuse (FAPMI) assumes the responsibility regarding the management of the ACIM commitments to date. FAPMI accepted this proposal and already initiated the necessary activities in order to guarantee the ongoing activities.

The position of the Federation as a state entity, the important network of collaborations at regional and local level, its institutional and participation in various organisms and state entities, as well as its activities on prevention of sexual violence against children and adolescents, guarantee that the commitments assumed will be continued and further more efficiently expanded from January 2012. Contacts: D. Tomás Aller Floreancig. Coordinador General. tomas.aller@fapmi.es
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11. Sweden, Swedavia

Source: <http://swedavia.se/en/Start-page/Press/News/Swedavia-becomes-partner-with-ECPAT-Sweden/> 13 Dec, 2011

● Swedavia becomes partner with ECPAT Sweden



The trafficking of children for sexual purposes is global. Children are transported from one country to another to meet the demand of perpetrators, who travel to places where children are made available at low cost and no risk. A study from Stockholm University estimates that Swedes account for some 4,000-5,000 purchases of sex with children abroad each year*.

Swedavia, with 2,500 employees and eleven airports serving some 28 million passengers a year, has now become a key partner with ECPAT Sweden in the fight against child sex trafficking. ECPAT Sweden works against child pornography, child sex tourism and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. By taking a stand and taking action, Swedavia can make an important contribution in the fight against sex trafficking of children. "Swedavia is taking an active stand against child sex trafficking, and through our partnership with ECPAT, we can make a further contribution. Each year, a large number of passengers fly via our airports, so we have a unique opportunity to reach out. Many of the airports' partners already work against child sex trafficking. Together, we hope to make a difference," says Charlotta Hyldal, HR Director at Swedavia.

For Swedavia, the partnership with ECPAT involves, in the initial stage, training of its own employees as well as information to its suppliers and partners. Swedavia will draw up a business ethics policy against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and introduce a common clause repudiating such trafficking in all its contracts with suppliers. "We welcome the stand taken by Swedavia, which allows greater opportunities to fight child sex tourism and trafficking in children," says Helena Karlén, Secretary General of ECPAT Sweden.

12. ECPAT Netherlands

Source : <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/p/59/2218/mo45-mc62/333travel-ondertekent-de-child-protection-code>

On November 14, 2011 the Dutch tour operator 333Travel (specialist for Asia) signed the Child Protection Code. 333Travel has an office in the Netherlands with 32 employees and an office in Bangkok with 14 employees. Arno van Uffelen, CEO at 333Travel: "We think it is very important that our customers know that we protect children at the destinations we offer and that they can come to us with questions or concerns. By implementing the Child Protection Code we bring procedures in place to respond adequately to reports and contribute to increase the awareness of child sex tourism. Together with ECPAT we will create as much awareness as possible among employees, suppliers and customers of 333TRAVEL. " The Dutch Tourism Association ANVR, TUI, Oad Reizen, Travel Counsellors, Baobab, Fly Brazil and VNC Asia Travel are the other Dutch members of the Code.



Signing of TheCode.org by 333Travel CEO Arno van Uffelen

13. Kenya, The Standard

Source: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/InsidePage.php?id=2000044145&cid=4>,

Published on 05/10/2011, By Athman Amran

● 50 underage girls 'sold weekly' as sex workers in Kenya (IPI report)

At least 50 girls, aged between ten and 15, are sold every week to tour operators and tourist hotels at Sh60,000 each as sex workers and to star in pornographic movies, a report claims. The report released on Tuesday by the International Peace Institute (IPI) says that the girls are trafficked or smuggled to Nairobi from North Eastern Province and Somalia. The estimation of the number of girls smuggled per week comes from a non-governmental organisation Womankind Kenya, which is based in Garissa. "Vehicles that transport miraa from Kenya to Somalia return loaded with young girls and women, who end up in brothels in Nairobi or who are shipped to Mombasa and destinations outside Kenya," the report says. The report titled *Termites at Work: Transitional Organised Crime and State Erosion in Kenya* was compiled by IPI executive director Mr Peter Gastrow.

The report says the girls are taken to massage parlours or beauty shops, where contacts from tour operators and hotels come to select the ones they wish to take as sex workers. "Tour operators and hotel workers also operate as traffickers and brokers," the report alleges. The report says the trafficked children are then taken to scheduled villas in Mombasa where sex tourism thrives. "The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has estimated that about 10,000 people are trafficked into Coast Province each year," the report says. Mombasa is a destination for people trafficked from as far as Uganda, Somalia, Tanzania and Ethiopia. In Kenya, those who control the networks involved in trafficking of humans or smuggling migrants use supermarkets, foreign exchange bureaus and electronic shops as cover for the human trafficking business, the report says. The report claims that most traffickers are Somalis and those who head and control the network are known as makhalis.

In Nairobi and Garissa, the report claims that some traffickers operate as travel agents for airlines. "They pay taxes for their legitimate businesses to ensure that they do not attract queries from Government authorities," the report says. The report claims that a code of silence exists among the makhalis and their agents and contacts. "Only other agents, brokers, corrupt senior police officers, and their lawyers know what they do behind their veneer of law abiding upright citizen," the report claims. There are at least five to ten makhalis in northern Kenya and in Eastleigh in Nairobi. They each control a loosely structured network, which they run independently from each other.

14. Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa

Sizwe Ntsele, Operations Intern, Dec 9, 2011



The final quarter of 2011 has been an exciting one for child protection. Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA), Local Code Representatives for the Tourism Child Protection Code, sent their last newsletter for the year to signatories and supporters, the world population reached seven billion, and a major breakthrough was achieved in Pakistan, where a bill was passed which will punish those who force women/girls into marriage and deny them their inheritance.

Two major events provided a platform for FTTSA to share their stance about the protection of children in Africa and the rest of the world - COP17 and 16 Days of Activism. FTTSA co-authored a position paper on Climate Change and Tourism, which was debated by a panel during a side event of COP17, taking place in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November - 9 December 2011. FTTSA's view is that tourism numbers alone will not improve the lot of the poor and that a transformation of the tourism sector is essential. This transformation must include the protection of children from sex tourism. Furthermore our participation in the promotion of the 16 Days of Activism made the Code South Africa aware that 16 days is not enough and this should be an on-going initiative. Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. At least one in three women in the world has suffered from violence, usually from someone known to her. It ranges from intimate partner violence to the use of rape as a weapon of war, from sexual harassment in public spaces to harmful practices like child marriage. The Tourism Child Protection Code South Africa feels that tomorrow can be different. Societies change, sometimes very fast. Behaviours, norms and institutions that are commonplace and unremarkable in the eyes of one generation can be rejected by the next. Finally, we welcome Africa Travel Group to the Code family. Our hope is that with the addition of each new member our efforts may be intensified and reach a wider audience. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

15. ECPAT International

Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon (Mam), Dec 6, 2011

Programme Officer for Combating Child Trafficking and Child Sex Tourism

The ECPAT Network held its **5th ECPAT International Assembly: 'Global Action, Commitment, and Solidarity'** on 8 – 10 November 2011 in Paris, France. It was the first time since the 2008 World Congress III in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil that ECPAT groups from over 70 countries participated in a global conference to review the network's governance and strategic priorities, and to analyse manifestations and trends, innovative strategies and good practices in order to effectively combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

On Tuesday, 8 November, a Thematic Plenary Session was held on: 'Corporate Social Responsibility and Strategic Partnerships against CSEC,' where **Mr. Matthias Leisinger of Kuoni** and current Chair of The Code's Board of Directors and **Ms. Sophie Flak from ACCOR**, also on The Board of The Code, both presented and high-lighted the commitments by companies to protect children and in implementing The Code.

In addition in the morning of 9 November, there was a specific 'thematic' workshop that allowed ECPAT groups, many that are 'Local Code Representatives,' to share and enhance their knowledge and expertise in supporting the tourism private sector to combat child sex tourism and implement The Code. **Ms. Milena Grillo from Paniamor**, Representative of the ECPAT International Board from Costa Rica, was the Moderator of the lively session that included presentations from:

- Ms. Celine Verheijen of ECPAT Netherlands on 'Multi-Stakeholder Approach against Child Sex Tourism in Sending and Destination Countries;'
- Ms. Dolores Alforte, ECPAT Philippines: 'Community Base Initiative against Child Sex Tourism in Boracay, Philippines;'
- Ms. Carol Smolenski, ECPAT USA: 'Strategies in Implementing The Code of Conduct in the United States;'
- Ms. Ariane Couvreur, ECPAT Belgium: 'Campaign against Child Prostitution and Child Sex Tourism;'
- Ms. Astrid Winkler and Ms. Mechtild Maurer, ECPAT Austria and ECPAT Germany: 'Tri-Country Campaign against Child Sex Tourism in Austria, Germany and Switzerland.'

Another high-light of the conference was the 'Branding as a Network Asset' presentation given by **Mr. Andreas Astrup, the new General Manager of The Code**, for the plenary session prior to the close of the Assembly, that generated dynamic conversation on the ECPAT name, brand and logo. Lastly, ECPAT groups that are active in implementing The Code as 'Local Code Representatives' or are interested to work on The Code held a side meeting to discuss the recent changes within The Code, challenges and offer recommendations to The Code, which will be discussed at the next AGM of The Code in March 2012.



Panels concerning the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct at the 5th ECPAT International Assembly in Paris

Source: <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=186910>, by Mary Rauto, November 26, 2011

● **Hotel steps up its fight**

CLOSE to 500 staff from a hotel group in Fiji have been trained on making their resorts child friendly. The Accor Group of Hotels in Fiji engaged the services of ECPAT Child Alert (end child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking) national director Allan Bell held a week-long training at Novotel Nadi, Novotel Suva and Mercure Nadi on the issue of child sex tourism.

He said this was a huge industry driven by money and the idea behind the training was to create awareness and protect children.


On Thursday Mr Bell held four training sessions for 90 staff members of Novotel Suva. "We don't anticipate anything to happen here," he said "We would like to make them aware that Accor has accepted the responsibility to make their hotels child friendly.



"The training reinforces what people already know and what we are asking of the staff is nothing more than how they look after their children at home." Novotel Suva general manager Simon Harper said it was about responsible tourism. The problem, he said was an international one, not isolated.

"Instead of feeling that they need to turn a blind eye to it we want them to know there is a protocol in place to report it," he said.


"The training is to support the staff. Earlier this year, Accor Group of Hotels in Fiji and New Zealand registered as signatory to the global responsible tourism code of conduct known as The Code to fight against the exploitation of children. ECPAT Child ALERT is a registered charitable trust working to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.



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Friday, March 23, 2012