

# CHILD SEX TOURISM: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COMBATING CHILD SEX TOURISM

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**Abstract**—The sexual exploitation of children is a violation of children's fundamental rights. The child is treated as a sexual and commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery. Child Sex Tourism (CST) is a part of the global phenomenon of commercial sexual exploitation of children. It involves the sexual abuse of both male and female children.

Each year, over a million children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade. Child Sex Tourism (CST) involves people who travel from their own countries to another and engage in commercial sex acts with children. CST is a shameful assault on the dignity of children and a form of violent child abuse. The sexual exploitation of children has devastating consequences, which may include long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and possibly death.

**Keywords:** Child Sex Tourism (CST), Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, Child Abuse and Physical and Psychological Trauma.

## (1) INTRODUCTION

### (a) Overview

Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in tourism is probably the clearest expression of the use of the tourism platform in a damaging way. Very few child sex tourists are arrested, tried and sentenced. Witnesses rarely report to the police because many of them are not aware of the problem and are not familiar with the reporting mechanisms. One way to enhance the number of reports is to raise awareness among tourists and tourism professionals.

Child Sex Tourism (CST) is not only a grave violation of children's fundamental rights, but also brings harm to the victim, the community and the image of a tourist destination. When a destination has the reputation of Child Sex Tourism (CST), mainstream tourists stay away. It is therefore important to invest in the protection of children at destinations to curb the problem and consequences of Child Sex Tourism (CST).

Because the travel industry has international networks, knowledge, experience and direct contact with travelers, tourism professional can make an important contribution in combating sexual exploitation of children. Child protection measures are effective only if the whole tourism sector stands together. Therefore, the problem of sexual exploitation of children is not the concern of only the destination countries. Every tourism professional, whether working in a country of origin or a destination country, for a tour operator, a travel agency, an airline or a hotel; everybody has a stake in it. Child protection is a matter of attitude, rather than a matter of money. It is about raising awareness and reporting suspicious behavior.

### (b) Objectives of the Study

- (i) To examine the concept of Child Sex Tourism (CST)
- (ii) To understand the difference between 'victims' and 'offenders'
- (iii) To identify the different types of offenders
- (iv) To examine the concept of commercial sexual exploitation of children
- (v) To understand the different forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children
- (vi) To identify children's rights
- (vii) To identify ways to combat Child Sex Tourism (CST)

### (c) Organisation of the Study

The study consists of 5 sections. Section 1 talks about the research topic and gives an introduction to the topic. Section 2 discusses the existing literature related to this topic. Section 3 identifies the ways to combat Child Sex Tourism (CST). Section 4 suggests and identifies steps that can be taken by people or by the common man to help eradicate the social menace of child sexual abuse. Section 5 discusses the research methodology used for this paper. Finally, section 6 gives the conclusion of the study.

## **(2) LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **(a) Child Sex Tourism (CST)**

Child sex tourism is the sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children. Child sex tourists can be domestic travellers or they can be international tourists. CST often involves the use of accommodation, transportation and other tourism-related services that facilitate contact with children and enable the perpetrator to remain fairly inconspicuous in the surrounding population and environment.

Child Sex Tourism involves the exchange of cash, clothes, food or some other form of consideration to a child or to a third party for sexual contact. Child Sex Tourism (CST) occurs in multiple venues, from brothels in red-light districts to beaches or five-star hotels and in urban, rural or coastal settings. It can occur over a long period of time, for example, where there is a long 'grooming' process, during which a child sexual offender befriends a vulnerable child and obtains his or her trust before exploiting the child sexually. In other cases, the child sex tourist purchases sexual services directly from a third party that is holding the child in a position of exploitation and who then makes the child available to such tourists.

Child sex tourists come from all walks of life: they may be married or single, male or female, wealthy tourists or budget travellers. A frequent misperception is that all child sex tourists are middle-aged or older men, when in fact young tourists have been known to travel for the express purpose of sexually abusing children. Child sex tourists may be foreigners or domestic nationals who are travelling within their own country. Some child sex tourists target children specifically, however, most are situational abusers who do not usually have a sexual preference for children, but take advantage of a situation in which a child is made available to them.

This type of exploitation can occur anywhere in the world and no country or tourism destination is immune. In fact, CST can occur in one destination and then move to another, as prevention efforts in the original destination are stepped up by government authorities, the tourism industry and child rights organisations. As child protection mechanisms increase in certain tourism destinations affected by CST, it is important to remember that neighbouring destinations may also be put at risk.

### **(b) Victims and Offenders**

#### **Who are the Victims?**

Victims of CST often come from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. However, this is not their only characteristic: many come from ethnic minorities, displaced communities and other marginalised social groups. Victims are both girls and boys, some of whom may also have been victims of domestic abuse and neglect.

Working children, especially those involved in the tourism industry and who are dependent on seasonal income, can easily fall victim to child sex tourism. Sometimes, simply being born in a tourism destination characterised by major wealth discrepancies between incoming tourists and local inhabitants can be enough for a child to become exploited in CST. Regardless of the background of child victims of sex tourism, they all experience severe emotional, psychological and physical consequences as a result of their exploitation.

#### **Victims of CST are often:**

- Caught in poverty
- From minority groups
- Dependent on seasonal economies
- Working children
- Children living on the street
- Children abused or neglected in the home
- AIDS orphans

#### **Who are the Offenders?**

The majority of child sex tourists are men, but there are also female offenders. They vary in age and social background. Some offenders claim it is not their fault, that they were seduced, that is not illegal because the children are prostitutes, that these children are accustomed to sex, or that by paying the children for sexual services, they are helping their families. But taking advantage of the situation of children in need by offering them money or goods in exchange for sex, amounts to child abuse and is against the law.

### **(c) Different Types of Offenders**

Roughly, offenders can be classified into three categories –

#### **1. Situational Child Sex Tourist:**

The situational child sex offender abuses children by way of experimentation or through the anonymity and impunity afforded by being a tourist. He or she does not have an exclusive sexual inclination for children. Often, the situational offender is an indiscriminate sex tourist who is presented with the opportunity to interact sexually with a person under 18 and takes it. The majority of child sex tourists are situational offenders.

#### **2. Preferential Child Sex Tourist:**

The preferential child sex tourist displays an active sexual preference for children. He or she may still have the capacity to experience sexual attraction for adults but will actively seek out minors for sexual contact. The preferential child sex tourist will generally search for pubescent or adolescent children.

#### **3. Paedophile:**

Paedophiles are adults who are primarily sexually attracted to pre-pubertal children. They often make images of the sexual abuse. Usually considered as someone suffering from a clinical disorder, the paedophile may not show any preference for the gender of children and may not view sexual contact with children as harmful. Many times, they are in a network where they share images and information on where and how to exploit children. Paedophiles are the minority of child sex tourists.

#### **(d) Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a grave violation of children's rights and constitutes an affront to our collective dignity. CSEC is defined as the "sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons," in the Declaration and Agenda for Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. It is a process through which "the child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object" and "which constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery." First identified as a global concern at the Stockholm World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 1996, CSEC is a complex problem that requires very specific interventions and the full attention of the world community.

CSEC can take many forms, each with equally devastating consequences for children and the communities in which it occurs. The main forms of CSEC are child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes, while child sex tourism and some instances of child marriage can be considered as specific forms of child prostitution. It occurs for a wide variety of reasons, such as wealth discrepancies, demand for child sex, gender inequalities, armed conflict, social attitudes, or extreme consumerism. No country in the world is immune to the various forms of CSEC, although individual experience and responses may differ.

One form of CSEC that has received considerable media and public attention over the past 15 years is child sex tourism or CST. It is sometimes referred to as sexual exploitation of children in tourism or SECT. Child sex tourism occurs in multiple tourism destinations and even in places which do not have any real tourism infrastructure. It is one of the greatest tests of an increasingly connected world and an important challenge to the ever-expanding travel and tourism industries.

#### **(e) Different Forms of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

The commercial sexual exploitation of children takes many forms and there are often distinct links between the different manifestations. In fact, it is difficult to separate some forms from others and it is useful to bear in mind that one form of CSEC can result in another. This is particularly true of child sex tourism, which is often linked to multiple forms of CSEC,

such as trafficking in children for sexual purposes, child pornography, and in some cases, to early child marriage.

#### **1. Child Trafficking for Sexual Purposes:**

Children exploited in CST destinations are often locally based. However, children are also trafficked internally or across borders to service sex tourists. There are multiple cases of minors trafficked to other countries for prostitution and in particular to service tourists who are wealthier than locals.

The existence of a relationship between trafficking in children and CST is common: trafficked children are particularly vulnerable as they are removed from their communities, cultural context and have a fragile legal status that forces even greater dependency on those profiting from child sexual exploitation (pimps, brothel owners or even clients). Furthermore, tourism destinations are often economic magnets, making both adults and children more vulnerable to false promises of employment or other forms of trickery and coercion employed by traffickers. It is also possible that children are trafficked for reasons other than sexual exploitation, such as child labour in the informal tourism market or for begging purposes, only to end up in sexually exploitative situations.

Finally, it should be noted that traffickers and their victims may be users of the same transportation services as tourists. Indeed, with taxis, buses, boats and planes being used to transport tourists and travellers to numerous destinations at increasingly inexpensive costs, it is not surprising that these same services can be used to bring children to places where they can be exploited by tourists.

#### **2. Child Pornography:**

A striking feature of child sex tourists, especially preferential child sex tourists and paedophiles, is the frequency with which they produce, collect and exchange images of abuse. In many CST cases, the offending adult films or records the abuse inflicted upon the child at the tourism destination, linking CST with the production of child pornography. The offender may keep the images for his or her own consumption or may share them with other child pornography consumers. The child pornography can also be used for commercial gain, with the tourist who produced it sharing it or placing it on the Internet in exchange for money or some other consideration. Child pornography can thus lead to additional child sex tourists being attracted to a tourism destination.

#### **3. Child Marriage:**

Child marriage or early marriage (the marriage of children below the age of 18) can be considered a form of commercial sexual exploitation of children when the married child is used as an object of sexual gratification in exchange for money or another form of payment. Accordingly, child marriage can also be a thinly-veiled form of CST. There are instances where

a national from one country travels to another country to marry a minor (in this case always girls) in exchange for money or other forms of consideration to the parents, spends a week with the girl, but then abandons her and returns to his home country, never to interact with the girl or the family again. Such occurrences have been noted in the Middle East and South Asia, where early marriage is still a common practice.

It can also happen that a tourist arrives in a country, marries or promises to marry a minor, and brings the minor back to his country. The victim is then used for continual sexual exploitation and as a result of being young and away from home, is dependent upon her exploiter. This type of sex tourism has been noted in South Asia and the Middle East, but also observed in countries in South America.

#### 4. Child Prostitution:

Child Prostitution is prostitution involving a child, and it is a form of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. The term normally refers to prostitution of a minor, or person under the legal age of consent.

Child prostitution usually manifests in the form of sex trafficking, in which a child is kidnapped, or tricked into becoming involved in the sex trade, or survival sex, in which the child engages in sexual activities to procure basic essentials such as food and shelter. Prostitution of children is commonly associated with child pornography, and they often overlap.

The **United Nations** defines it as "the act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person". The **Convention on the Rights of the Child's Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography** defines the practice as "the act of obtaining, procuring or offering the services of a child or inducing a child to perform sexual acts for any form of compensation or reward". Both emphasize that the child is a victim of exploitation, even if apparent consent is given.

#### (f) Children's Rights

Child rights and human rights are universal legal guarantees that protect individuals and groups from actions and omissions (lack of action) that affect their freedom and human dignity. However, while human rights are a recurring theme in the national and international development debate, children's rights do not receive the same amount of attention despite the fact that these rights recognise the special needs and vulnerabilities of children, which must be disaggregated from the situation of adults.

The main international legal instrument for the protection of children's rights is the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) of 1989**.

#### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a United Nations Convention. It is the most widely adopted human rights convention in the world, having been ratified by 193 countries (all UN countries, except the United States and Somalia). The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989.

There are 54 articles in the Convention in total, out of which Articles 32, 34 and 35 concern the protection of children against sexual exploitation and trafficking for sexual purposes.

#### Article 32

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

2. States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular:

- (a) Provide for a minimum age or minimum age for admission to employment;
- (b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment;
- (c) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.

#### Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

#### Article 35

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

The Rights of Children (defined as all persons under 18 years of age) are set out in 54 Articles and two Optional Protocols. One Optional Protocol is especially on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The four core principles of the Convention are non-discrimination, devotion

to the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development and respect for the views of the child.

### **(3) COMBATING CHILD SEX TOURISM**

Like all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children, combating child sex tourism is a complex problem that requires responses at several levels. The process of CST, whether it occurs in an organised or unstructured manner, involves many different actors and therefore many opportunities to intervene or prevent it from occurring. Among those involved in preventing a tourist from sexually exploiting a child are: End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) groups; other NGOs; local law enforcement; tour operators; hotels; law enforcement posted abroad; tourism authorities; local transport operators (taxi drivers, bus drivers) and other tourism professionals. Working together, members of these different sectors can present a united front against those who would abuse children while travelling.

#### **(i) Extraterritorial Legislation**

Extraterritorial Legislation is the extension of a country's legislative reach to include crimes committed by a national or a resident in that country beyond the borders of that country.

Recognising the global nature of Child Sex Tourism (CST), some countries of origin have made it possible that perpetrators of sexual exploitation of minors can be convicted in the country of origin when they abuse children abroad. This is called Extraterritorial Legislation. Prosecution of sexual abuse by a person committed abroad is possible, even if the abuse is not a violation of the law in the country where the abuse took place. The conviction is under national laws for offences committed abroad.

Extraterritorial legislation is the extension of a country's legislative reach to include crimes committed by a national of that country beyond the borders of that country. It is one of the most important tools in fighting CST, as it allows legal authorities to hold tourists accountable for their behaviour abroad, thereby reducing the probability that a traveller can escape legal punishment after committing a crime in a country where there may be few resources to bring anyone, let alone tourists, to justice for crimes against children. Thus, it sends a signal to all potential child sex tourists that they may be the focus of more than one legal system.

By the most recent count, 44 countries have legislation that enables them to prosecute their nationals for crimes against children committed abroad, although each body of extraterritorial legislation may vary considerably from one to the other. Double criminality, which is the requirement that the offense committed be legally considered a crime in the country where it took place, in addition to the country which is prosecuting its national, may or may not exist as part of a country's extraterritorial legislation. The use of extraterritorial

legislation can be quite labour-intensive, as it often requires police to travel to the country where the crime occurred. In addition, evidence and witnesses must then travel to the tourist's country to be a part of the legal process and to secure the conviction of a travelling child sex offender.

It is of paramount importance that all major tourist-sending countries enact and employ extraterritorial legislation to hold tourists accountable for CST.

#### **(ii) Enforcement of Domestic Legislation**

Developing and enforcing legislation to prosecute tourists and travellers for sexual crimes against children is crucial in combating child sex tourism. As a general rule, a child sex tourist can be prosecuted in two ways: firstly, the tourist can be arrested, tried and sentenced by the legal authorities of the country in which the crime was committed; or they can be tried in their own country for a crime committed abroad.

#### **(iii) Domestic Legislation**

Although some countries have legal systems in which sexual crimes against children are often defined differently, the use of domestic legislation is appropriate in ensuring that certain countries do not remain or become havens for child sex tourists. In some countries, the existing legal arsenal for prosecuting child sex offenders is not particularly well defined, contains numerous gaps and may not take into consideration the specific vulnerabilities of child victims of sexual exploitation.

However, Domestic Legislation is recommended above Extraterritorial Legislation for several reasons: its use ensures that witnesses and forensic evidence do not need to travel potentially long distances to the home country of the tourist, while child victims who may be required to testify are spared the additional distress and discomfort resulting from such travel; there are fewer bureaucratic steps to undertake when prosecuting a tourist in the country where the crime was committed, thereby helping to ensure that a time lapse does not prevent successful prosecution; and issues such as communication between the various stakeholders as well as the cultural frame of reference are also less complicated when dealing with only one jurisdiction rather than that of the tourist and of the country in which the crime was committed.

#### **(iv) The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism**

The Code (short for "The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism") is a multi-stakeholder initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

The Code of Conduct is an instrument of self-regulation and corporate social responsibility, initiated by the End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) network and providing increased protection to children from sexual exploitation in

travel and tourism. It is regarded as one of the world's major tools for combating child sex tourism and comprises a set of six criteria which travel and tourism companies follow in order to provide protection to vulnerable children in tourism destinations. Signatory companies must implement the six criteria according to a set of minimum standards, a timeframe and reporting requirements.

The criteria are:

1. To establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children;
2. To train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations;
3. To introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children;
4. To provide information to travellers by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket slips, homepages, etc.;
5. To provide information to local key persons at the destinations; and
6. To report annually.

The Code of Conduct was first developed by ECPAT Sweden in collaboration with Scandinavian tour operators and the WTO in 1998. The Code rapidly became a major ECPAT International network project, promoted and implemented in both tourist-sending and tourist-receiving countries.

#### **(v) Awareness Raising and Sensitisation**

In sending countries, tour operators, travel agencies, airlines and other travel and tourism companies have developed information materials to inform their customers that CST is a problem that not only exists in multiple tourism destinations, but is illegal and has dire consequences for children. Information materials include travel brochures, ticket folders, luggage tags, video spots, public service announcements, and other methods to convey messages to travellers concerning CST.

It is crucial that tourists are informed that commercial sexual exploitation of children is illegal. Many countries have developed extraterritorial legislation to prosecute nationals for sexual offences against children. Thus, a tourist can be held accountable for his or her actions either in the destination country or in their home country. When a country adopts such legislation, there is no destination that provides immunity for an exploiter of children.

#### **(vi) Training and Capacity Building**

Tourism professionals are a critical resource in combating CST. As individuals who are in direct contact with the tourist, they are in a unique position to actively promote responsible tourism, caution the ill-intentioned tourist against CST, receive reports from other tourists, distribute information

materials to customers and report incidents to local police, ECPAT groups or ECPAT International. Furthermore, some in the tourism industry, such as hotel receptionists, tour guides or booking agents, may have access to the name, passport details or other important identifying information concerning an offending tourist.

In light of this unique position, some travel and tourism companies have conducted training for their staff on the issue of CST. Training covers definitions of CSEC, the legal framework, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, profiles of victims and offenders, concepts of corporate social responsibility, the sociological background to sexual exploitation of children, case studies, role play exercises and other components. Having completed such training, tourism employees are better equipped to recognise CST and to take action against it.

A travel or tourism company may develop its training package on the issue of CST as part of its commitment following its signature to the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

#### **(4) WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Child sex tourism is a serious violation of children's rights. Whether you are a traveller, tourist, tourism professional or simply a concerned individual, there are steps you can take to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

1. Choose travel and tourism companies that have a policy against child sex tourism, such as those that have signed and implemented the Code of Conduct.
2. If your regular travel agents or tour operators do not have such a policy, encourage them to develop one.
3. Consult the ECPAT website to find out more about the situation of children in certain tourism destinations ([www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)).
4. Speak out against child sex tourism to your peers.
5. Contribute to local organisations working against commercial sexual exploitation of children.
6. When travelling, do not hesitate to report any suspicion of sexual exploitation to local authorities (a list of hotlines is available at [http://www.unwto.org/protect\\_children/](http://www.unwto.org/protect_children/)).

#### **What to Report?**

##### **(a) A tourist sexually abusing a child**

This includes an adult touching a child in an inappropriate manner or forcing the child to touch the tourist inappropriately. It can also be a tourist engaging in non-contact sexual abuse, such as exposing him or herself to a child, asking a child to undress, forcing children to touch one another or photographing a child in some of the above situations.

### b. A person selling a child

This may be someone in a bar, hotel, club or even in a brothel who is asking tourists if they are interested in having sex with a minor. Often, it is the go-betweens working in the tourism industry (taxi drivers, waiters, etc.) that offer sex with children to tourists. Such a person may suggest tourists visit a red-light district to meet young girls or boys.

### c. A tourist trying to buy a child for sexual exploitation

A tourist who approaches locals, hotel staff, other tourism professionals, or even other tourists asking where he or she can pay for sex with young children should be reported to authorities. Such a tourist may be seen walking into a brothel, club or massage parlour known for selling sex with minors.

### d. A hotel or travel company allowing exploitation of children

If hotel staff do not check the age of boys and girls who enter a hotel with a guest and who are clearly not family relations, the hotel may be facilitating child sex tourism and should be reported. Similarly, if hotel staff approach guests with offers of sex with minors, they and the hotel should be reported. It can also happen that a tour operator, tour guide or other travel company (trekking, adventure tourism, cruises) may bring tourists to places where they can have free access to children. Such companies are engaging in child sex tourism and should be reported to local or international authorities.

## (5) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data sources. The main data sources are the various books on Child Sex Tourism (CST), Sexual Exploitation of Children, research papers and articles on Child Sex Tourism and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) and various internet websites providing information on the topic.

## (6) CONCLUSION

Globalisation has brought a multitude of positive effects and accelerated development in various fields of economics and society. Similarly, globalisation has had a strong influence on the development of tourism, as it “reduces the distances” between destinations and boosts information exchange. With rapid tourism development, poor third world countries face increases in different forms of sexual exploitation and, especially, child sex tourism. Sex tourism and its even darker side, child sex tourism is on the rise as more children are drawn into it.

International tourist associations have adopted several measures in order to prevent and combat this phenomenon. Developed countries are very much aware of the importance

of responsible and sustainable tourism that includes the fight against all forms of sexual exploitation of children and child sex tourism. The concept of responsible tourism, not only highlights destinations where child sexual exploitation for tourism exists, but, equally, the country of origin of abusive tourists. In the countries of origin, society and tourism professionals can raise greater awareness for citizens who travel abroad. Target groups should be informed that sexual exploitation of children is illegal, the consequences for the child and its community, and the procedures for reporting such acts to relevant institutions.

International organisations in the field of protecting children and human rights, national governments, NGO-s and other tourist stakeholders should develop common strategies to combat the root causes for sexual exploitation of children in tourism. The strategy should eliminate criminalisation of victims and maintain the coordinated cooperation of all stakeholders. From the evidence that child sex tourism is a growing trend, it would seem that it is becoming a distinct factor in global tourism. However, this could be reversed if governments, police forces and travel companies, as well as other stakeholders implemented the suggestions put forward in this paper for prevention of child sex tourism.

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