

NATIONAL CONSULTATION

ON ADVANCING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES FOR
CHILD PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE)



with

ECPAT International

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The
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Chamber of
Commerce



**NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON
ADVANCING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES
FOR CHILD PROTECTION FROM
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

December 12, 2017

Hotel Galadari, Sri Lanka

Organised by

Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE)

with

ECPAT International

Report on the,

**National Consultation on Advancing Responsible Business Practices for
Child Protection from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism**

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MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Protecting children in an ever-changing and complicated society is obviously a challenging task and PEaCE is very willing to accept it and make further commitments to combat all forms of exploitation of children, with special focus on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT). Evidence suggests that even though our island was once a hotspot for foreign paedophiles only, now local paedophiles too are exploiting Sri Lankan children. Furthermore, the trends have also changed and become more complicated, making it impossible to rely on traditional approaches to addressing the issue.

2017 was a successful year for PEaCE in terms of combating the sexual exploitation of children mainly due to the diversification of its activities and also the strong relationships established with key stakeholders in the government, private sector and NGOs. In order to gain wider public attention to the message of child protection, PEaCE programme team employed the concept of Forum Theatre in its awareness and training programmes as an effective communication strategy. PEaCE was also able to meet with key stakeholders in the travel and tourism and ICT industries which are responsible – both directly and indirectly for sharing good practices in order to ensure that children are protected and child exploitation is met with zero tolerance.

This National Consultation on Advancing Responsible Business Practices for Child Protection from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (SECTT) is the culmination of initiatives implemented throughout the year. We conducted this consultation on December 12, 2017 at Hotel Galadari, Colombo in Sri Lanka in association with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), International Labour Organization, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI), the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, SriLankan Airlines and other key industry stakeholders. Our partner Terre des Hommes Netherlands extended substantial support towards this effort especially with financial assistance.

The Consultation resulted in a commitment by all the agencies present to work towards the elimination of SECTT and identified tangible ways in which to work towards this end.

The participants' suggestions included: adding sex education into the school curriculum, educating children, parents and community leaders on the rights of the child, establishing a code of ethics for stakeholders in the travel and tourism industry which should be a regulatory requirement, law enforcement and reviewing the existing legal framework, coordination and close monitoring of stakeholders in the private and public sectors, developing a registry of child sex offenders in a bid to prevent them entering the country, and the establishment of a child protection policy, etc.

There was consensus that a working group should be formed and the participant private sector stakeholders would meet at the PEaCE office on January 22, 2018 to discuss further action.

PEaCE was gratified when the participants commended this consultation and recommended it as a model for regional countries to follow, as they develop their own national action plans which will form the basis for a strong regional level child protection framework.

We appreciate the contribution and commitment by the participants towards making this a productive consultation.

Thank you!

Mohammed Mahuruf
Executive Director - PEaCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PEaCE concluded 2017 with a highly productive national level consultation with key stakeholders in the travel and tourism industry in Sri Lanka, titled: “Advancing Responsible Business Practices on Child Protection from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism”.

PEaCE acknowledges and appreciates the technical support extended by ECPAT International towards this endeavour. The commitment of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) which functions under the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs to eliminate SECTT by 2020 is extremely encouraging. We also appreciate, very much, the financial support given by Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Human Dignity Foundation which ensured that the concept for the consultation could become a reality.

In addition to Ms. Hina Saeed and the staff of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, we also thank the panellists and participants in the panel discussions, for their valuable input. Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Ms. Simrin Singh, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and its allied stakeholders in travel and tourism, Prof. Savitri Goonesekere and Ms. Indira Ariyaratne – all of whom brought added value to the discussions and gave them depth and scope.

PEaCE extends its thanks to the Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators, Association of Small and Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka, Bentota Beruwala Hoteliers Association, Cultural Triangle Hoteliers Association, South and Deep South Hoteliers Association, Mt. Lavinia Hoteliers Association, the Hotels Association of Sri Lanka and John Keells Holdings.

We appreciate the importance that the Inspector General of Police afforded this issue by nominating senior police officers to participate in the programme.

The exploitation of children in travel and tourism is a national problem, and as such requires a national effort to eliminate SECTT by 2020 and make Sri Lanka an island paradise in the true sense of the word. As such the coming together of all stakeholders and being able to agree that a committed effort by all is critical in this regard, is the first step towards eliminating the scourge that is child sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism sector.

1. PEaCE

A pioneer in the Protection of Children in Sri Lanka

Launched in 1991 as a campaign, Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE) was established to support the global initiative of ECPAT International. ECPAT is an international connectivity of organizations and individuals acting together to eliminate child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. PEaCE aims to foster collaboration amongst local government authorities, private sector stakeholders, civil society organizations and activists to broaden the spectrum of the rights of the child to include the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

PEaCE is currently conducting a large number of programmes aimed at strengthening child protection – including awareness programmes, training and capacity building programmes, public campaigns, creative communication programmes on the importance of protecting children, advocacy and consultation meetings, providing educational and legal support to victims/survivors and their families, and medical programmes etc. Overall, these programmes are intended for children, parents, school teachers and principals, civil society, government officials and regulatory as well as law enforcement officials including child protection officers, police officers, National Child Protection Authority staff, lawyers, policy makers, as well as key stakeholders in the ICT and travel and industries.

Initially, PEaCE was exclusively concerned with eliminating tourism related sexual exploitation including child trafficking and child prostitution. At a difficult time when the majority of citizens as well as responsible authorities were somewhat hesitant to talk directly about the sexual exploitation of children, PEaCE made a dedicated

commitment not only to raise public awareness but also to lobby with relevant stakeholders to create a child-friendly administrative framework in the country.

Despite initially opposing the campaign, the then Sri Lanka Tourist Board gradually understood the grave crimes being committed against children and began to recognize the initiatives of PEaCE. This understanding led PEaCE to become an active member of the steering committee on the two-year action plan on “zero tolerance for child sex tourism in Sri Lanka,” which was launched by the Sri Lanka Tourist Board. The National Tourist Guide Lecturers Association of Sri Lanka joined PEaCE to transform the landscape of tourism in Sri Lanka in a positive way.

The complex transformations such as the changes and/or developments in the life styles of the people, technology, socioeconomic patterns and cultural traditions, compelled PEaCE to move beyond its initial focus to expand child protection initiatives to various other areas. As a result, a range of additions were made to the PEaCE agenda including child marriage related issues, child labour, sexual exploitation of children online (SECO) and child pornography, etc. Accordingly, the present PEaCE portfolio comprises several initiatives that cover all aspects of protecting children from sexual exploitation while promoting the rights of the child.

A dedicated child protection organization with an eventful history of over 25 years, PEaCE has been able to achieve a number of fruitful outcomes in the course of its activities for the betterment of children everywhere in Sri Lanka. One of the most significant is that PEaCE made an important contribution towards amending

the Penal Code of Sri Lanka in 1995 to include specific provisions that penalise crimes against children, the first since the law was passed in 1883.

To this end, seminars were conducted for judges with the support of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute and close relations were established with the Legal Draftsman's Department and Attorney General's Department. This resulted in being able to influence legislature to amend laws that were outdated or not able to address crimes against children.

In addition, PEaCE constantly lobbied for a child friendly approach within the Police Department, particularly when handling victims, therefore contributing to the establishment of Bureau for the Prevention of Abuse of Children and Women.

The organization has been conducting a wide range of activities to further expand this nationally important mission. A series of consultations were conducted in 2017 with lawyers of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) to discuss the existing Sri Lankan legal framework relating to child protection and the improvements required to provide an empowered legal shelter to the children of Sri Lanka.

Another important recent activity was the discussion with key private sector stakeholders in the ICT and travel and tourism industries, to focus on overcoming SECO. The discussion ended with the stakeholders agreeing to join and support future initiatives to eliminate SECO.

The second half of 2017 was a productive period for PEaCE with many such achievements. The recent National Level Consultation on Advancing Responsible Business Practices for Child Protection from Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT), held on December 12, 2017 in Colombo in partnership with ECPAT International and in association with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), International Labour Organization, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI), the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and SriLankan Airlines.

The Association of Small and Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka (ASMET) too participated in the consultation, and expressed interest in the PEaCE objective. This was a highly productive consultation, given the solid agreements reached at the end to make this a continuous effort with a practical forward plan.







2. Background and Rationale of the Consultation

The Global Study on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT), conducted in coordination with 67 partners from around the world notes that the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism has expanded worldwide, that more children are being victimized than ever before, and that the problem is truly global, with no region untouched and no country immune. A regional report of the Global Study focussing on South Asia including Sri Lanka was also published and disseminated.

The launch of the Global Study in May 2016, followed by a series of global, regional and national activities brought the findings to the attention of a wide range of decision makers and stakeholders.

In July 2017, the Transition Meeting on Implementation of the Recommendations of the Global Study which was hosted in Madrid by the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) – leaders and international experts from the private sector, law enforcement agencies, international and regional bodies, as well as INGOs participated in the high level discussions focussed on coordinating and intensifying global efforts to address the problem of SECTT through the implementation of the Global Study's recommendations, which contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders.

The Transition Meeting called for the mobilization of the private sector which is the key ally in the effort to fight SECTT. Under the leadership of international bodies such as the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), The International Air Transport Association (IATA), the UK's largest travel association – ABTA and others, the existing

group of responsible representatives of the tourism industry can be expanded in a number of countries through adherence to the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP), UNICEF's Children's Rights and Business Principles, The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, and other child protection instruments.

The SAARC Region

The 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of India in May 2016, in New Delhi, after considering the Progress Review of 20 years of the First World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and the way forward for South Asia, and noting that there is urgent need to strengthen regional and national efforts to address the issue, directed the SAIEVAC (South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children) Regional Secretariat to:

- Develop a regional strategy to address all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation (including online) and trafficking, which also builds on the existing situations in the different Member States; and
- To initiate a process for setting regional standards and codes of conduct that safeguard children from commercial sexual abuse and exploitation in travel and tourism.

The regional strategy which is at an advanced stage of development through a broad based consultation with technical guidance of ECPAT International has mainstreamed and scaled up efforts to safeguard children from commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. One of the main indicators of success is the

growing number of travel and tourism sectors in the different countries that have adopted and enforced child protection policies.

In Sri Lanka

Ever since the end of ethnic conflict, a considerable expansion of the travel and tourism industry has taken place, with fluctuating rapidity and varying implications. In 2006, Sri Lanka adopted a National Plan to combat Child Sex Tourism, which emphasizes the need for community awareness and capacity building of

stakeholders in the travel and tourism industry such as tour operators, airports, police and hotels.

In 2011, the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) warned of a rise in the sexual exploitation of children linked to a rapid growth in the tourism sector. In November 2016, the Global Study was launched in Sri Lanka and the first copy was presented to the former president Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaranathunge.



3. Objectives And Outcomes of the Consultation

The primary objective of this national consultation was to establish specific commitments to address the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT), following the recommendations of the Global Study and contributing to the achievement of the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. 'Specific commitments' in this context means responsible and ethical business practices with zero tolerance for all forms of violence against children – especially sexual exploitation within the industry. This also requires a strong regulatory and administrative framework that urges corporate stakeholders to ensure that their business and corporate practices adhere to this responsibility. The workshop did not imply that tourism is a 'bad' sphere where children are vulnerable to abuse. Rather, it was that the concept of 'sustainable tourism' should not only provide a safe shelter for children, but also make a qualitative contribution towards the national economy.

Specific Objectives

To discuss the global and regional trends and good practices of multi sector cooperation in addressing SECTT.

To mobilise the private sector in the travel and tourism industry to take specific action to address SECTT by following the best practices implemented by leading companies that are already setting high standards in the application of child protection policies in Sri Lanka.

This consultation was designed specifically to include the private sector, which was perceived as the next major step in harnessing global efforts to maintain momentum garnered internationally

through the Global Study. It was particularly timely, in the context of the recent historical decision by the General Assembly of UNWTO, which approved the transformation of the Code of Ethics for Tourism into an international convention, known as the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics.

The Convention covers the responsibilities of all stakeholders in the development of sustainable tourism, providing a framework that recommends an ethical and sustainable *modus operandi*, including the need for the rights of children to be respected by travellers and tourists.

This consultation was also organised in context of activities planned for 2018. The government of Colombia, recognising its role as a responsible tourist destination country, has decided to host the first Global Summit that will gather committed representatives from the highest levels in the private sector, global and regional multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations and law enforcement, to take specific actions to end SECTT, aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The agenda of the programme is attached as an annexure.



4. Summary of the Consultation

4.1. Opening Remarks

The consultation began with the opening remarks and welcome address by the Executive Director of PEaCE Mr. Mohammed Mahuruf. He emphasised the need for Sri Lanka to become a country with a responsible and sustainable tourism and travel industry that has zero tolerance for the sexual exploitation of children.

Mr. Mahuruf also provided an overview of the organization and the expected outcomes of the consultation and welcomed the government, private sector and NGO stakeholders and invited them to make it a productive consultative process. He then invited Ms. Indira Ariyaratne to moderate the consultation, and she then invited Director General of SAIEVAC Dr. Rinchen Chopel to present his views.

Having acknowledged the prominent intellectual and internationally acclaimed child rights activist Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, he stressed on the important role which private sector stakeholders have to play in order to ensure a child safe travel and tourism industry. He justified the need to conduct more national level consultations and other similar initiatives across the South Asian region, and said: "Without addressing the private sector and key business stakeholders, no action in this regard will be sustainable." Dr. Chopel also pointed out by that it would be highly beneficial if all regional partners become active agents in making the world safe for children.

The next speaker, Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry was mainly concerned with the rights of and violations against women and

children in the South Asian region. Focussing on a human rights and development oriented perspective, she insisted that such violations do have a tremendous impact on national economies, public well-being, health and safety, school education, national productivity, law enforcement, public programmes and budgets.

Addressing the gender dimension of the issue, she was of the view that violence against women and children is an extreme manifestation of gender inequality and systemic gender based discrimination and that the right of women and children to live free of violence depends on the degree of protection afforded to their human rights by means of a strong chain of justice.

Ms. Saeed also focussed on the critical role of the media in preventing and combatting violence against children in its various forms. The media is more than mere mirrors of society or neutral communication environments. Through their reports and representations, the media has the capacity to increase understanding of the problem, and actively shape opinions, attitudes, perceptions and ideas.

4.2 Presentations

The first- half of the consultation consisted of three preliminary presentations – Sustainable tourism and developments in the Sri Lankan tourism industry by the Director General, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority Mr. Malraj B. Kiriella; the ECPAT Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism by the Deputy Executive Director, ECPAT International Ms. Junita Upadhyay, and on the Impact of sexual exploitation of children in travel

and tourism: past and present by Prof. Savitri Goonesekere.

Mr. Kiriella started his presentation with a global outlook based on the UNWTO World Tourism Highlights 2016 and provided a summary of key tourism indicators applicable to Sri Lanka covering the period from 1970 to 2016 which included provisional statistical data in the following table:

Description	1970	2016
Tourist Arrivals	46,247	2,050,832
Tourist Receipts	US\$ 3.6 million	US\$ 3,518.5 million
Duration of stay	10.5 nights	10.2 nights
Receipt per tourist per day	USD 7.4	USD 168.2
Rooms (Tourist Hotels)	1,408	22,336
Beds (Tourist Hotels)	2,816	45,965*
Employment (Direct)	5,138	45,965*
Employment (Indirect)	6,940	189,544*

* Provisional values.

Mr. Kiriella's presentation thus provided the participants with a clear picture of the gradual development of tourism in Sri Lanka and its significant contribution to the national economy as well as certain other aspects of country's development including the expansion of employment opportunities. Having introduced the Sri Lanka's Tourism Strategic Plan 2017-2020, Mr. Kiriella also explained in particular the actions taken by the SLTDA to combat sexual exploitation of children in tourism such as the implementation of a National Plan of Action, advertisement campaigns etc. It is an important sign in combating SECTT that Mr. Kiriella insisted upon the national need for developing tourism in Sri Lanka to further heights while at the same time taking necessary actions to protect children. He concluded his presentation with a precious saying of Nelson Mandela.

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

- Nelson Mandela

Ms. Junita Upadhyay from ECPAT International shared an overview of ECPAT's Global Study on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, and some of its main findings and recommendations and also of the UNWTO Convention on Tourism Ethics. She started her presentation with a description of the background and objectives of the Global Study and elaborated in detail on the Global Task Force which was convened to guide a course of action to end sex crimes against children in travel and tourism worldwide. An important idea she presented was that, despite 20 years of hard activity since the First World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in 1996, child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism has expanded across the globe, out-pacing attempts to stop it.

Ms. Upadhyay, in her presentation highlighted awareness raising, prevention, reporting, ending impunity and investing, especially in child protection systems as priority areas for action to combat SECTT. She drew her attention also to the insufficiency of existing data and research relating to the issue and recommended the

regular exchange of up to date information about travelling child sex offenders among law enforcement authorities across countries by making use of instrumental tools such as Green Notices for convicted sex offenders who are likely to reoffend in other countries, the denial of entry to convicted child sex offenders, sex offender registries that comply with international standards on confidentiality and privacy and international police clearance systems.

She further discussed new trends of SECTT with references to sexual exploitation of children online (SECO); as consequences of technological advancements including the ICT infrastructures.

Prof. Savitri Goonesekere made a thought provoking presentation on the impacts of SECTT on the lives of nation's children also with focus on the past and present scenarios. Prof. Goonesekere's presentation was an important critical observation of the past and present administrative and government level responses to SECTT. Lack of a proper national level interest and a strong political and institutional will, to end sexual exploitation of children was critically addressed by her. She mentioned that there was an 'official silence' with regard to this issue and that PEaCE was seen a catalyst for a great change to bring the issue to the surface. Prof. Goonesekere also appreciated the long-term hardwork of PEaCE by saying that it was organisations like PEaCE that contributed to prioritise the severity of this issue.

Prof. Goonesekere commented critically of the way the NCPA is functioning at present. Having recalled the time when it played a key role under the then leadership, she stressed that the NCPA should acknowledge that it is at a weak phase now and then regain the high profile it possessed in the past in order to combat sexual exploitation of children.

4.3 Panel Discussion - 1

Role of the State, Private Sector and Civil Society in combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Sri Lanka

After the presentations concluded, the first panel discussion titled: Role of the State, Private Sector and Civil Society in combatting CSEC began with the participation of four panellists viz. Simrin Singh - Country Director, ILO; Madhu Munasinghe, - Clinical Psychologist, NCPA ; Carmeline Jayasuriya - Head of Operations, John Keells Foundation, and Chandila Colombage - Senior Programme Manager, World Vision Lanka. This session was moderated by Dr. Rinchen Chopel.

A brief summary of the points presented by the panellists appear on page 15.

4.4 Group Activity - 1

A Safe Environment in Travel and Tourism Combatting Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Travel and Tourism

Based on the outcomes of the first Panel Discussion, a group activity was conducted under the theme: 'A Safe Environment in Travel and Tourism Combatting SECTT.' For this purpose, all the participants were divided into four groups based on the sectors they represented: government officials, and corporate stakeholders including business entities in the travel and tourism industry as well as non-governmental organizations.

Suggestions and recommendations resulted from the group activity are demonstrated on pages 16 and 17.

Panel Discussion - 1

Ms. Simrin Singh

Country Director, ILO

- Based on a study conducted by ILO Sri Lanka on the sexual exploitation of children in Sri Lanka
 - CSEC affects both girls and boys.
 - CSEC takes place beyond coastal areas as well.
 - Incidences in the order of intensity: Colombo, Negombo, Galle, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa.
 - Trishaw drivers play a role as agents.
 - According to the findings, only 30 % were foreigners and 70 % were locals.
 - Earnings generated by CSEC is comparatively higher than the average wages in the country.



Ms. Madhu Munasinghe

Clinical Psychologist, NCPA

- NCPA has been conducting pilot projects for the past two years in the field.
- It is very difficult to get the residents and victims to report cases mainly due to benefits they earn through CSEC.
- A related issue is drug abuse.
- Lack of focus of educational authorities on affected children.
- Locals are also involved in CSEC – not only foreigners.
- Civil society and schools have a major responsibility in preventing.



Ms. Carmeline Jayasuriya

Head of Operations, JKF

- Vision of John Keells Foundation (JKF) – the CSR arm of the John Keells Group is: Empowering the Nation for Tomorrow.
- JKF initiated project WAVE (Working Against Violence through Education) covering both gender-based violence and child abuse.
- Its focus is prevention through awareness raising.
- This project has 3 tiers focussing on their own staff, categories like the police, lawyers, school children, media and other key stakeholders.
- First public campaign was launched on November 2016, targeting sexual harassment in public transport.



Mr. Chandila Colombage

Senior Programme Manager, World Vision Lanka

- The physical form of tourism has been changed from location based traditional form to the new internet based form.
- With new technologies such as the internet and social media, locating the places where incidents occur has become difficult.
- Accommodation has also more complex – from hotels to home-stays which are not always registered properly.
- With the development of local tourism, the problem has been compounded and it is not possible to confine attention to foreigners alone.
- Civil society has a huge responsibility.



Group Activity - 1

awareness raising

Code of Conduct should be formulated

Civil Society Organisations

- Training and education: sex education for all age groups should be included in the school curriculum.
- Awareness programmes for the general public.
- Encourage parents to opt for activity as suppliers of food and other related items to hotels so that they too have an income source, without letting children be exploited as income earners.
- Counselling services, rehabilitation, sports, meditation and other relevant activities to be afforded for children who have been exploited and violated.
- Establish a code of conduct for companies in the industry at the time of registration.
- Strict implementation of laws protecting children.

Corporate Bodies

- Create awareness in all the tourist hotspots.
- Protect children through educational and empowerment programmes.
- Form alliances with community leaders.
- Lobby with government authorities.
- Conduct effective media campaigns.
- Create awareness on human/child rights by educating families, teachers and employees in the industry.
- Address cybercrime at both school and national educational levels.
- Overcome the social taboo on discussing the topic of sex.
- Lobby for implementation of relevant laws
- Create a society that addresses child sexual exploitation and inform relevant authorities.

Group Activity - 1

legal framework needs improvements

family, school and the local community are crucial agents

NGOs

- National policy on tourism. Review with regard to child protection concerns
- Review and establish guidelines and a Code of Conduct for private sector institutions in relation to tourism and child protection.
- Establish and activate a clear monitoring mechanism by the NCPA.
- Ensure committed community level engagement.
- Community level epidemiological research for prevalence data.
- Promote proactive engagement of private sector by adopting a Code of Conduct.
- Prevent international trafficking into tourism-related sectors.

Government Sector

- Ensure the registration of service providers.
- Conduct surveillance of tourist destinations and ensure community vigilance.
- Identify the informal sectors and make them formal.
- Create awareness among children about their rights and laws and help them overcome stigma.
- Ensure that the relevant authorities provide a quick response when called upon for assistance.
- Conduct formal sex education in schools.
- Ensure that vocational training focuses on school dropouts and is needs-based and area specific.
- Compile a record of registered paedophiles and keep tourism communities informed.
- Engage with the Hotels' Association
- Empower women.
- Develop life skills and assertiveness among children.

4.5 Panel Discussion - 2

Ethical and Legal Aspects of SECTT

The panellists focused on the ethical and legal requirements, as well as the procedures and practices that will contribute to establishing a child-safe environment in travel and tourism. This session began with emphasis on the fact that law enforcement should not in any way discourage the development of the tourism and travel industry, which plays a prominent role in the national economy.

But it is imperative that responsible and ethical business practices are followed for Sri Lanka to be reputed as a country that promotes child-safe sustainable tourism practices. This goal can only be achieved if the existing legal framework is strengthened and further empowered. However, this cannot be done solely by the government, but will require the engagement and leadership of civil society, and private sector stakeholders as well.

The second panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Carmeline Jayasuriya with the participation of four panellists. Ms. Junita Upadhyay spoke on the UNWTO Framework on Tourism Ethics; Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar made her presentation on lessons learned at the Nepal Country Round Table on SECTT; Ms. Lakmali Karunanayake spoke on Child Protection Laws/Mechanisms and Mr. Rohan Abeywickrama presented on the Good Practices in the Tourism Sector.

The theme of the second group activity was Ethical Conducts that Strengthen the Legal Framework for Combating SECTT.

The discussion enabled private sector stakeholders from leading hotels, travel agencies, SriLankan (Airlines) and other industry service providers to engage in open dialogue and identify ways to contribute towards an ethical and responsible business environment where proper standards are followed to ensure child protection.



4.6 Group Activity - 2

Ethical and Legal Aspects of SECTT

The second panel discussion led to Group Activity - 2 based on the same theme with the objective of encouraging participants to discuss and suggest their recommendations.



Panel Discussion - 2



Ms. Junita Upadhyay
Deputy Executive Director, ECPAT

- The UNWTO Convention developed a Framework on Tourism Ethics.
- In 1995, at the 11th General Assembly of UNWTO held in Cairo a policy document entitled: Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism – which specifically condemns CSEC, was approved.
- In 1996, at the first World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children which was hosted by the government of Sweden with ECPAT, UNICEF and other organisations, the issue was put on the global agenda for the first time.
- Many governments were present and they all adopted this action framework. UNWTO also participated in that congress and as a result they came up with the idea of forming a Taskforce to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism.
- In 1999, The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism was adopted and this is widely practiced worldwide.
- This code is a voluntary tool which guides tourism stakeholders towards responsible and sustainable tourism practices.
- The UNWTO Convention which will come into force soon notes that violence against children is a negation of tourism.



Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar
General Secretary, CWIN

- Nepal depends heavily on tourism for foreign currency.
- Government, law enforcement, civil society and hoteliers came together in Kathmandu to discuss SECTT which was once disregarded as unimportant.
- The discussion recognised the importance of stakeholder involvement in addressing the SECTT issue.
- Awareness among people and law enforcement is very low on the sexual abuse of boys.
- Statements of commitments included a Code of Conduct and actions by the tourism industry that would contribute towards the promotion of awareness on SECTT.

Panel Discussion - 2 (Contd.)



Ms. Lakmali Karunanayake

Senior State Counsel, Attorney General Department of Sri Lanka

- The Penal Code of Sri Lanka enacted in 1883 is the key authority on penal law in Sri Lanka. It defines offences and stipulates sentences, etc.
- The Amendment in 1995 included child sex related offences/ child exploitation.
- The Amendment Act No. 22 1995 also addresses child trafficking and cruelty to children, etc.
- But there are only a few sections in the Penal Code which covers exploitation through tourism.



Mr. Rohan Abeywikrama

President, Association of Small and Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka

- Tourism Police has a greater responsibility in prevention and protection.
- The hotel industry does not encourage anything pertaining to SECTT now.
- In the past, there were certain hotels and industries that had turned a blind eye to guests who were involved in child pornography and abuse, but not now.
- However, there are new unfavourable trends developing based on newly emerging home-stay businesses.
- ASMET launched an awareness campaign over a decade ago where stickers displaying the message 'Don't Come for Child Sex Tourism' were distributed.

Group Exercise - 2

Recomendations from NGOs

1

The vision of Sri Lanka should be to create a child-safe tourism country by 2020. The cooperation of the government, private sector, civil society, parents and children themselves will be necessary for that.

2

Since Sri Lanka is a member of the UNWTO, the country is bound to implement the principles and mainstream the ethical guidelines provided by the UNWTO.

3

Sri Lanka must employ mainstream child protection policies into the practices of the travel and tourism industry.

4

A commitment to honour the code of conduct should be integral to the registration process of service providers.

5

A child protection policy should be adopted into the practices of every child care institution, especially at recruitment stage of teachers, matron, care givers, etc.

6

Tourism laws should address issues relating to the rights and protection of women and children.

Group Exercise - 2

Recommendations from Private Sector

1

Sri Lanka should commence registering sex offenders to impose restrictions on them with regard to employment and travel.

2

Licensing requirements for home stays in the informal sector; and paying special attention to the vulnerability of children in these homes by installing CCTV cameras at the entrances to such places.

3

Awareness sessions should be conducted on a continuous basis in tourism hotspots together with all the stakeholders such as the police, religious institutions, etc.

4

Community leaders need to be educated, and safe areas created where children could go for relief and respect for others should begin at home.

5

Children should be encouraged to attend Sunday schools where they can be taught about moral and ethical behaviour, be rightfully disciplined and educated on the ways and means to seek protection.

6

The media and other relevant institutions have a responsibility to maintain public focus on the need for vigilance and the eradication of SECTT.



(ECPAT Sri Lanka)



- 1) Register of sex offenders
 - employment
 - travel restrictions
- 2) Limiting of home stays to
 - vulnerability of children
 - Mandatory CCRV
- 3) Awareness on a continuous tourism in related countries
 - local guide
 - religious institutions
 - schools
 - police

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON ADVANCING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES
ON CHILD PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Organized by
Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE)
(ECPAT Sri Lanka)

12 Dec 2021
Hotel Galadari



- * Child safe tourism by 2025
- * Support of all the sectors
- * Role of local communities
- * Child safeguarding policy nationally
- * Supply of sex offenders
- * Local law enforcement

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5. Key Outcomes Of the Consultation

The National Consultation on Advancing Responsible Business Practices for Child Protection from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism organised by PEaCE concluded with productive and practical outcomes together with a commitment by all the participants and partners to take immediate follow-up action to make this effort multifaceted and continuous.

This key achievement was possible not only because of efforts by PEaCE but also because of national as well as regional efforts to protect children. It is a collective commitment by governments, private/corporate sector stakeholders, civil society, NGOs and other related parties. This is the first time that all the stakeholders met together to discuss the issues at hand from various, and sometimes conflicting, perspectives.

An important outcome of the group activities was the active and conscious collaboration by the representatives of the public and corporate sector stakeholders. It was clearly visible that this was truly a 'multi-stakeholder' consultation representing core sectors/fields on a single platform to discuss the severity of the problem and identify solutions to eliminate SECTT.

PEaCE considers child protection a complicated issue that must be addressed via a range of perspectives with equal contribution and dedication by all the stakeholders and the

general public. As such it should be a focus of the national development agenda.

Dr. Rinchen Chopel, emphasised that national initiatives of this kind will form the basis for strong and multifaceted regional level child safeguarding initiatives, arising from the inputs by various countries in the South Asian Region.

Focusing on the critical role of the media in shaping opinions, attitudes, perceptions and ideas in preventing and combating violence against children in its various forms, a wider discourse on ethical and responsible media practices in addressing the issue of SECTT was also considered vital. Hence, organizing a similar consultation with media personnel in Sri Lanka is an immediate need.

The commitment voiced by stakeholders to increase their efforts towards ensuring child safe, sustainable tourism in Sri Lanka, was heartening. As a result, a working group representing all stakeholders to discuss the next steps was formed.

Mr. Mohammed Mahuruf proposed having a follow-up meeting within a few weeks to discuss further action and collaboration. At the request of the participants, PEaCE agreed to coordinate the working group and follow up. It is expected that this will pave the way towards formulating a national level road map.

Annexures

Annexure I: List of Participants

No.	Name	Designation	Institution
1.	Mr. Malraj B. Kiriella	Director General	Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
2.	Mr. Chandana Wijeratna	Director, Standard and Quality Assurance	Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
3.	Mr. Dayasiri Fernando	Assistant Director, Standard and Quality Assurance	Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
4.	Ms. Rajeeeka Ranathunga	Assistant Director, International Relations	Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
5.	Prof. Savitri Goonesekere	Emeritus Professor/ Law	Freelancing
6.	Dr. Rinchen Chopel	Director General	SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat, Kathmandu
7.	Ms. Junita Upadhyay	Deputy Executive Director, Programmes	ECPAT International, Bangkok
8.	Ms. Hina Saeed	Secretary General	SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamabad
9.	Mr. Ponpandian Thangam	Programme Manager	Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Bengaluru
10.	Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar	Board Member	ECPAT International, Kathmandu
11.	Mr. Rajib K. Haldar	Regional Coordinator - South Asia	ECPAT International, Kolkata
12.	Ms. Joyatri Roy	Programme Coordinator	Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS), Bengaluru
13.	Ms. Madhu Munasinghe	Clinical Psychologist	National Child Protection Authority
14.	SSP Weerasekera	Director	Police Tourist Division
15.	SP Lanka Rajini	Director	Bureau for the Prevention of Abuse of Children and Women
16.	Mr. Prabath K Widanagamage	Officer-In-Charg	Police Tourist Police

No.	Name	Designation	Institution
17.	Mr. K.H. Ariyasena	Sub Inspector (SI)	Bureau for the Prevention of Abuse of Children and Women
18.	Ms. Lakmali Karunanayake	Senior State Counsellor	Attorney General's Department
19.	Ms. Simrin Singh	Country Director	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
20.	Ms. Bianca Abeygoonawardane	National Project Coordinator	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
21.	Dr. Hemamal Jayawardena	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF
22.	Ms. Shyamali Gnanasinghe	Manager – Child Protection & Child Rights Governor	Save the Children
23.	Mr. Chandila Colombage	Senior Programme Manager	World Vision International
24.	Mr. Pradeep Kekulawala	Head of Human Resources	SriLankan Airlines
25.	Mr. Niroshan Ranawake	CSR Manager	SriLankan Cares
26.	Ms. Lihini Meegalla	CSR Executive	SriLankan Cares
27.	Ms. Carmeline Jayasuriya	Head of Operations	John Keells Foundation
28.	Mr. Jehan Perinpanayagam	Chief Executive Officer	John Keells Holdings
29.	Mr. Dileep Mudadeniya,	Head of Brand Marketing	Cinnamon Hotels and Resorts
30.	Mr. Thisara Perera	Assistant Manager, Human Resources	Cinnamon Hotel Management Ltd
31.	Wg Cdr Kumuda Eramudugolla	Chief Operating Officer	SL Association of Inbound Tour Operators - CCC
32.	Mr. Tharindu Damith Abeyrathna	Assistant Director	SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sub Office in Colombo
33.	Mr. Rohan Abeywickrama	President	Association of Small & Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka
34.	Mr. M.B.Jayarathna	Vice President	Association of Small & Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka
35.	Mr. Justin Karandawala	Vice President	Association of Small & Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka

No.	Name	Designation	Institution
36.	Ms. Renuka Jayamanne	Vice President	Association of Small & Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka
37.	Mr. Sanath Marasinghe	Treasurer	Association of Small & Medium Enterprises in Tourism in Sri Lanka
38.	Mr. Mohamed Farwin	Manager	Mango Tree
39.	Mr. A.M. Micheal	Manager	Jack Tree
40.	Mr. Rohan Gamage	President	Bentota Beruwala Hoteliers Association
41.	Mr. Indika De Silva	Vice President	Bentota Beruwala Hoteliers Association
42.	Mr. C.M. Goonewardena		Hikkaduwa Hoteliers Association
43.	Mr. Lalith Rajapaksha	General Manager – Gimanhala, Dambulla	Cultural Triangle Hoteliers Association
44.	Mr. Niran Ratwatte	General Manager – Citrus Waskaduwa	Kalutara Hoteliers Association
45.	Mr. Keshan Leich	Senior Marketing Executive – Aditya Resorts	Hoteliers South and Deep South
46.	Ms. Radinka Guruge	Marketing Executive – Aditya Resorts	Hoteliers South and Deep South
47.	Mr. Nishan Chathuranga	Human Resources Development Executive, Jetwing Yala	Hoteliers South and Deep South
48.	Mr. Pradeep	Operations Manager, Jetwing Yala	Hoteliers South and Deep South
49.	Mr. A.K.K. Wimalasooriya	Residence Manager – Cinnamon Wild, Yala	Hoteliers South and Deep South
50.	Mr. Dahanushka Rajapaksha	Human Resources Manager - Cinnamon Wild, Yala	Mt. Lavinia Hoteliers Association
51.	Mr. Buwaneka Abeysuriya	Chairman – Ranveli Beach Hotel, Mt. Lavinia	Mt. Lavinia Hoteliers Association

No.	Name	Designation	Institution
52.	Mr. Wasantha De Silva	Secretary	The Hoteliers Association of Sri Lanka
53.	Ms. Laleenie P. Hulangamuwa,	Chief Executive Officer	The Hoteliers Association of Sri Lanka
54.	Ms. Ahinsa Dewthilini	Environmental Animator, Royal Palms Beach Hotel	The Hoteliers Association of Sri Lanka
55.	Mr. Mohammed Mahuruf	Chairman/Executive Director	PEaCE
56.	Mr. V. Muralidaran	Programme Officer	PEaCE
57.	Ms. Apsara Kasthuriarachchi	Programme Officer	PEaCE
58.	Ms. Chamodi Dayananda	Programme Officer	PEaCE
59.	Mr. Ashan Weerasinghe	Information Officer	PEaCE

Annexure II: Programme Agenda

Time	Activity
09.00	Inauguration Welcome Remarks by PEaCE/ECPAT
	Opening Remarks Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI)
09.40	Sustainable Tourism: Into the Globe and from the Globe - Mr. Malraj B. Kiriella, Director General, SLTDA Evolution of Tourism in the Sri Lanka context Where was it before? Where does it stand now? Where will it be in the future?
10.00	Insights on the Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism - Ms. Junita Upadhyay, Deputy Executive Director, ECPAT International
10.15	The effect of SECTT in Sri Lanka - the past and present – Professor Savitri Goonesekere
10.45	Tea
11.00	Panel Discussion 01: Role of the state, private sector and civil society in the above context: 5 minutes each 1. Ms. Simrin Singh, Country Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO) 2. Ms. Madhu Munasinghe, Clinical Psychologist, National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) 3. Ms. Carmeline Jayasuriya, Head of Operations, John Keells Foundation 4. Mr. Chandila Colombage, Senior Programme Manager, World Vision
11.45	Group Exercise 01: A Safe Environment in Travel and Tourism Combatting SECTT
12.15	Presentations in Plenary and Discussion
13.00	Lunch

Time	Activity
14.00	Panel Discussion 02: Ethical/Legal Aspects on SECTT: 4 panellists 1. UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics - Ms. Junita Upadhyay 2. Lessons Learned from Nepal Country Round Table on SECTT - Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar 3. Child Protection Laws/Mechanisms – Ms Lakmali Karunanayake, Senior State Counsel, Attorney General Dept. 4. Good Practices in the Tourism Sector, What has been done – President Tourist Hotels Association
14.45	Group Activity 02: Ethical Conducts that Strengthens the Legal Framework for Combating SECTT
15.30	Tea during the Group Exercise 02
15.45	Presentations in plenary and discussion
16.15	Consensus on way-forward actions: plenary discussion (consolidate the different perspectives of the groups and come up with a solid follow-up mechanism)
17.00	Concluding Remarks Terre des Hommes (TdH), Netherlands Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority PEaCE/ECPAT



PEaCE

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