

VOLUNTOURISM AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Children living in institutions are more vulnerable. In most cases, children living in orphanages are not actually orphans but have been placed in institutions due to family dysfunction or poverty.

Unfortunately, some tourists take advantage of volunteer programs to exploit vulnerable children

Offenders easily target institutionalized children due to unregulated volunteering practices.

Unsupervised volunteering and building relationships with children in institutions can lead to sexual exploitation.

Therefore, all organizations must:

Ensure the safety of everyone involved and strict national regulations must be adhered in relation to volunteering. This includes background checks, interviews, reference checks, and physical and environmental standards for volunteers wishing to work with children.

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

If someone approaches you or someone else with the intent of exploiting children please inform them that it is a criminal offense and the punishment is very severe.

If possible, note their name, identity, and contact details and inform the relevant authorities.

Remember, children are more vulnerable. They need our support.

Dear Everyone!
Pay attention to every child's safety

Stay alert and be vigilant
Child protection is everyone's responsibility
Be an ethical traveler today!

If you know of any child abuse occurring.

PLEASE INFORM:

NCPA (National Child Protection Authority):
1929

CWB (Children and Women's Bureau):
011 2 444 444

Sri Lanka Tourist Police:
011 2 421 052

PEaCE (Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere):
011 281 9397 / 071 273 3037
info@ecpat.lk



TRAVEL WITH COMPASSION

Protect Children, Promote Tourism.



Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE)

WHAT IS TOURISM?

Tourism is “a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon that entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual home environment for personal, business or professional purposes.” (UNWTO)



WHY IS TOURISM IMPORTANT FOR OUR COUNTRY?

Tourism remains the third largest source of foreign currency earnings for Sri Lanka.

Tourism contributes to economic growth, employment, and reduction of regional income disparity.



UNETHICAL PRACTICES IN TOURISM

Tourists choose their preferred hotels, resorts, lodges, hostels, motels and with friends. Sometimes, they even stay with families they have never met before in their lives.

Unfortunately, tourism has brought with it many social issues, one of them being the sexual exploitation of children and youth. This crime has been rampant for years and exists across many nations.

Although tourism has been beneficial in boosting our nation's economy, some tourists take advantage of the hospitality of the host and engage in unethical practices.

Exploiting minors under the age of 18 for sexual gratification is a punishable offense.

VOLUNTOURISM (VOLUNTEER + TOURISM)

Volunteering is an act or practice of doing work for free in the community where one is vacationing.

The volunteer provides his/her services without remuneration.

The destination could be an orphanage, childcare institution, or school.

Without conducting prior background checks, volunteers who work with or for children in an organization or orphanage put the children at risk.

Children of all ages, genders and backgrounds can be sexually exploited by both foreign and domestic offenders who misuse travel and tourism infrastructure and services worldwide.

TOURISM IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty and attracts tourists from all over the world.

Sri Lanka has become a highly sought-after tourist destination for numerous reasons. From breathtaking natural beauty, Ayurvedic treatments, exploring cultural/historical locations, participating in educational activities, conferences, and even developing communities.

“The country has something for everyone.”