

# Sex offenders without Borders



An investigation into the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma in relation to travel and tourism

**Published by Save the Children Denmark**

First published February 2009

ISBN EAN 9788791682216

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## Acknowledgements

The investigation for this report would not have been possible without the help of many individuals representing Ngo's, the tourist industry and government institutions in Denmark, Thailand, Cambodia and Burma. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this report by providing the investigative team with information, ideas, logistic support, and local knowledge, which helped identify the places where sexual abuse and exploitation of children was taking place.

A special acknowledgment goes to the anonymous informants. The information provided by these informants is invaluable to the report and we respect their wish to remain anonymous due to the possibility of reprisals.

We would also like to thank Danida and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs who provided partial funding and extensive support via its consulates and representations in Thailand and Cambodia.

Last but not least we would like to thank Lotte Ladegaard who undertook the field investigation under difficult circumstances in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma.

## Executive summary

Save the Children Denmark have been working to protect children from all forms of child sexual abuse and exploitation for many years. Both the national and international department's program work reflect this commitment to child protection in the many projects that have been implemented in both Denmark and other countries. One of the areas of child protection where Save the Children Denmark has been active is the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation in relation to travel and tourism. This report documents the conclusions of an investigation into the sexual exploitation of children in relation to travel and tourism.

The purpose of the investigation was to gain more insight into the modus operandi of travelling sex offenders who sexually exploit children in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma; with particular emphasis being placed on the activities of Danish travelling sex offenders. The information gathered in this report will also be used to inform Save the Children Denmark's work to combat the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

The methodology applied to this investigation combines a desk study, which gives a general review of the literature, and a field investigation conducted by an experienced Danish journalist. The field investigation involved interviews with key informants from Law Enforcement Agencies, NGO's, Governmental organisations and journalists in Denmark and the three Asian countries chosen for this investigation. The field investigator spent 6 weeks using Non-participant observation methods to collect information on the sexual exploitation of children from the three countries visited. The methods were seen as the most efficient way of collecting data within the demands of the limited resources available for the investigation.

### **Results and findings of this investigation**

The results of this study indicate that an unknown number of travelling sex offenders continue to travel abroad in an attempt to contact and sexually exploit children. The evidence from this investigation suggests that the offenders use their economic and social power to groom children and their disadvantaged caretakers who for many different reasons are not able to act as protective adults. The sexual exploitation of children continues to be a problem in the countries investigated despite extensive information campaigns and some preventative child protection measures being put in place.

The investigation team was able to observe and gather information on male travelling sex offenders during the period of this study in the three countries investigated. Although the sexual exploitation of girls appeared to be more prevalent in relation to the observations made during this study, male travelling sex offenders appeared to be involved in both the sexual exploitation of girls and boys. We are aware that research has documented that

women are also involved in the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (Sanchez-Taylor, J 2001; O'Connell-Davidson 2005) but this investigation was not able to verify the presence of female sex offenders during the period of the field investigation.

The sexual exploitation of children appears to be less visible in Thailand and Cambodia, than it once was. This appears to be as a direct result of the information campaigns that have alerted travellers, Ngo's and governments to the problem. This appears to have forced the sexual exploitation of children go 'underground' and has led to the involvement of more third party exploiters who are now frequently used by travelling sex offenders in order to avoid direct contact with children in public. In addition, the new technologies (internet, mobile telephones etc.) appear to be more frequently used to facilitate contact between children, third party exploiters and the travelling sex offenders, before and during the period of travel.

Little documentation is available on the sexual exploitation of children in Burma compared to the two other countries studied.

The travel and tourism sector contributes significantly to the economy in all three countries and a considerable number of jobs are created in this sector. The industry is becoming a key actor in preventing the sexual exploitation in terms of implementing corporate social responsibility strategies that include awareness campaigns and appropriate child protection measures. These are usually implemented in cooperation with Ngo's and the UNWTO.

The investigation confirms earlier research in this area that causal factors as to why children are being sexually exploited are complex and myriad (Flanagan 2004). Children are vulnerable due to a combination of many factors which include

- poverty,
- lack of appropriate educational systems,
- ineffective child protection systems
- domestic circumstances; including alcohol and drug abuse, witnessing domestic violence, abuse and neglect etc.
- Criminals might also traffic or lure children into sexual exploitation

It appears that the economic and social power of travelling sex offenders allows sex offenders to purchase some children for sexually exploitative purposes. This economic power is also used to groom adults within the family and the local community so they are unable to act as protective barriers to the abusive behaviour of the exploiters.

This investigation was able to document, from various official and unofficial sources, that a small number of Danish citizens were involved in the sexual exploitation of children in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma. The secrecy involved in this form of criminal activity has made it difficult to uncover the true number of Danish citizens involved in this form of sexual abuse and exploitation. It is difficult to obtain official statistics which reveal how many Danes have been arrested, charged and convicted of committing sexual offences against children abroad. Only a few cases have been documented with law enforcement agencies

in the three countries involved in this investigation. The vast majority of travelling sex offenders are probably never identified which means that very few cases come before a court of law.

According to the statistics we were able to find, the majority of identified travelling sex offenders in Thailand come from France, UK, Germany, Sweden, Finland and Norway. According to a senior official at the Ngo FACE (Fight Against Child Exploitation).The organisation has registered two Danish citizens. One Danish man was charged for sexual intercourse with a girl aged 14 in a hotel room in Pattaya in 1997. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment. Another Dane managed to escape Thailand after allegedly abusing two 13 year old boys in two villages in Thailand.

## I. Introduction

Save the Children Denmark has been working on the issue of protecting children from all forms of child abuse and exploitation for many years. Both the national and international department's program work reflect this commitment to child protection in the many projects that have been implemented in Denmark and in other countries.<sup>1</sup>

Save the Children Denmark has prioritised the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation in relation to travel and tourism within its advocacy work and with the development of specific program activities. As an affiliate member of ECPAT<sup>2</sup>, Save the Children Denmark has forged links with the Danish and International travel industry to improve child protection procedures by implementing the Code of Conduct<sup>3</sup> as part of a Cooperate Social Responsibility agenda. Save the Children is working closely with the Association of Danish Travel Agents and Tour Operators to improve the level of adherence to the code of conduct and assess its impact on the Danish travel industry.

The purpose of this investigation was to gain more insight into the modus operandi of sex offenders who use travel and tourism to sexually abuse and exploit children. There was a particular emphasis on finding information in regard to Danish Travelling sex offenders. This information will also be used to inform Save the Children Denmark's prevention work on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism

The three countries identified for this investigation were Thailand, Cambodia and Burma. The selection of these three countries was based on the information available prior to the investigation started:

1. **Thailand** has been associated with child sex tourism (travelling sex offenders) for many years through the attention of the media and work by Ngo's to highlight the problem. Thailand is also a very popular destination for Danish tourists.
2. **Cambodia** is seen as a destination for child sexual exploitation through tourism and it is being increasingly targeted by travelling sex offenders.

3. **Burma** which has been relatively closed does not appear to have the same problems in relation to being a destination of choice for travelling sex offenders, but some travelling sex offenders have been caught in Burma, and it is possible it could become an emerging issue.

The focus on Danish Travelling sex offenders was important for Save the Children Denmark, as this will allow the organisation to improve advocacy methods and improve awareness of the problem in Denmark amongst decision makers.

Given the timeframe and resources available, this investigation can only give a limited insight into the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in the three countries visited. It is hoped that this initial investigation will lay the foundations for the resources to be made available for further research in this important area of child protection. By undertaking this investigation we hope to gain a better understanding of how to protect children abroad from the malicious actions of those individuals who travel abroad to sexual exploit children. The results will be linked to the Danish information campaign which was launched in January 2007 and the ongoing project work by Save the Children Denmark to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation in Burma, Cambodia and Thailand<sup>4</sup>.

### **1.1. Danish Travelling Sex Offenders**

Save the Children Denmark felt it was important to investigate this form of child sexual abuse and exploitation in order to improve the Danish child protection measures in relation to the sexual abuse of children by Danish citizens who travel abroad. This is linked to the need for a new Danish Action Plan on Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. The existing action plan is outdated and is of little use in terms of coordinating a comprehensive child protection system which would also cover the sexual abuse of children in relation to travel and tourism.

This investigation has revealed that there is very little information available in relation to Danish Citizens who have been involved in the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. There is very little documentation in relation to Danes who have been charged and convicted for the sexual exploitation of a child outside Denmark.

No convictions have been obtained through the implementation of legislation in 2006 that annulled the so called Double Criminality obligation. This allows for the prosecution, in Denmark, of Danish citizens who have committed a sexual offence abroad; even if the legislation in the destination country does not make it an offence there. The Danish penal code takes preference, so the accused can be charged with an offence when he returns home. More resources are deemed as being necessary to enforce this legislation if Danish travelling sex offenders are to be charged and convicted under this legislation.

#### **The Danish Paedophile Association**

The Danish Paedophile Association was an active organisation for many years until it disbanded itself in 2004 after an investigation by the Danish Attorney General into the

group's activities. A splinter group continues to operate the original website<sup>5</sup> which is now hosted in Sweden by the splinter group.

There is an article on the website where the issue of "child sex tourism" is discussed from the point of view of the members. The spokesperson for the splinter group reacts to the information campaigns to stop child sex tourism, by suggesting that children are "not sexually exploited in travel and tourism". Furthermore child protection organisations are not 'culturally aware' by suggesting that children are "sexually harmed or abused" when 'engaging in sexual contact with adults'. They suggest that sexual relations between adults and children are "normal in these cultures." It could be suggested that these views indicate that some Danish citizens may be actively involved in the sexual exploitation of children through travel and tourism.

### **A Danish Case Study**

In 2001 a television documentary was produced by the Danish National Broadcasting company, *DR (Danmarks Radio)*. The documentary was called *De Pædofile Danskere* (The Paedophile Danes) and was able to document that Danish men were travelling to a Danish owned hotel in India to engage in the sexual abuse and exploitation of boys. A Danish journalist from the program was able to infiltrate the Danish Paedophile Association where he was informed that some members of this group travelled abroad to sexually exploit and abuse children. He was also informed how some members of the organisation had contacts with certain hotels; one of which was in India.

When the documentary was due for broadcast, The Danish Paedophile Association tried to obtain a court order to prevent the documentary being shown, but this request was denied by the presiding Judge because the documentary was seen as being in the public interest.

The undercover journalist from *DR*, who infiltrated the Danish Paedophile Association, was given information about the hotel from members of this group. He and a film crew visited and filmed the hotel and were able to document their findings of sexual exploitation in a TV Documentary. The undercover journalist later wrote a book "*Mænd I Mørket*" (Men in the Dark) about his experiences when he infiltrated the group and his trip to the hotel in India.

Save the Children Denmark was also given information by two Danish citizens who were Co- owners of the hotel investigated by the Documentary crew. They were interviewed by Save the Children staff where they alleged that their male business partner was involved in the sexual exploitation of boys and was inviting other Danish men to the hotel to sexually abuse and exploit children. This Information was passed on to the Danish police by Save the Children Denmark. Guests who had stayed at the hotel were also able to give written accounts of the abuse they had witnessed at the hotel. As far as we are aware, no action was ever taken against the owner of the hotel by the Danish or Indian police. Before he moved to India, the co- owner of the hotel had previously been suspected of sexually abusing boys in Denmark as a trainer of a boy's football team. That alleged case was dropped due to lack of evidence. It would appear from the above information that there

are individuals in Denmark who are willing to travel abroad to sexually abuse and exploit children.

Research suggests that the vast majority of travelling sex offenders can not be defined by using the psychiatric term 'paedophile'.<sup>6</sup> Although the Danish case study above does indicate that there are small organised groups and individuals who are involved in the sexual abuse of pre-pubescent children, research suggests that the vast majority of travelling sex offenders do not target pre-pubescent children. The vast majority appear to be involved in the sexual exploitation of post pubescent teenage children. This group is referred to in the literature as 'situational offenders'.<sup>7</sup> They use cognitive distortions to overcome their internal inhibitors that would normally prevent them from committing this type of offence. The vast majority of these offenders appear to have appropriate sexual relationships with adult partners in their home environment, but engage in sexual exploitation of teenage children when travelling abroad.

Some travelling offenders could be described as Hebephiles which refers to an adult's sexual preference for post pubescent teenagers (Glueck 1955). Unlike paedophilia, this term is not recognised by DSM IV as a psychiatric condition, but could be a reason for why some men target teenage children.

## 2. Investigation methodology applied

The methodology applied has been a combination of a desk study and field investigation. The desk study has involved reviewing a number of books, articles, and websites in order to select geographic areas and specific locations known to be associated with the sexual exploitation of children in relation to travel and tourism. The desk study acts as a frame of reference in relation to the research on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

The selection process of the geographical areas involved contact with the Danish Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators, the Danish National Police, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and partner organisations of Save the Children Denmark who are involved in the project "Protecting children in Asia from sexual abuse and exploitation". This project is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The partner organisations in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma who are involved in this project are:

- ECPAT International and ECPAT Foundation in Thailand
- Save the Children Norway in Cambodia
- Save the Children in Myanmar.

Contact was also made with other sources who we felt could give valuable information on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. These include Danish journalists and other Danish residents who had worked on this issue and so had insights into the problem

Private networks and other Ngo's in Asia were also contacted for information and suggestions on how the investigation plan could be implemented under difficult and sometimes hazardous working conditions.

The field investigation involved interviews with key informants from law enforcement agencies, Ngo's, Governmental organisations, journalists and travel agencies, in order to investigate what they already knew about travelling sex offenders, whether they were aware of any Danish citizens who were engaged in sexual exploitation of children and which locations they chose to go to.

This was complemented with findings using non-participant observation techniques to collect information from the places where it has been suggested that sexual exploitation of children takes place. The field investigation for this report has been undertaken by an experienced journalist who has worked and travelled in South East Asia for many years.

The investigator was able to collaborate with local investigative assistants in all 3 countries. This was necessary for translation and understanding of local cultural issues.

Journalistic interviews with various informants are used together using non participant investigative methods<sup>8</sup>. Journalistic methods were seen as the most effective way of collecting information in such a short period of time and under very difficult investigative circumstances.

The fieldwork was carried out in the following areas:

**Thailand:** Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket

**Cambodia:** Koh Kong, Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh

**Burma:** Rangoon.

## 2.1. The use of sources and Ethical considerations<sup>9</sup>

The question of ethics was given a great deal of thought throughout the investigation. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter some informants have volunteered information under the condition of anonymity. In some cases the investigative team has taken the editorial decision to disguise their identity.

**Disclosing identities:** The investigation team was able to observe that sexual exploitation of children was sometimes part of organised crime<sup>10</sup>. Very few people involved directly or indirectly in this criminal behaviour are likely to volunteer information to investigators who ultimately work to expose and combat the problem. Therefore, the investigative team worked under cover acting as tourists during all field based investigation. We have disguised the identities of informants who work to protect children where ever possible

**Observing criminal activity:** We considered in advance what actions were to be taken if the investigators were able to witness travelling sex offenders in the process of committing a crime. The investigative team informed a local organisation that undertakes investigations of suspects when a British man was seen with a girl who appeared to be under the age of 18. Due to loud music being played in most bars, it was not always possible to establish the language or identity of the men the investigation team was able to observe. This made it difficult to report precise information to law enforcement agencies or Ngo's that operate hotlines in their home countries when illegal activities were observed.

**Protection of sources:** In order to protect informants every person interviewed was given the option of having their anonymity respected in the final report.

**Media Coverage:** The International Federation of Journalists has issued ethical guidelines on how to report on the issue of children's rights and child protection. These were followed by the investigative team.<sup>11</sup>

It is important not to disclose the names of resorts where child sexual exploitation takes place as apparently some men have used articles on travelling sex offenders as a kind of 'sex offender's visitor guide' to find areas where child sexual exploitation takes place.

**False Positives:** There would also appear to be a problem of some information from the general public generating so called false positive accusations when they are mistaken about certain events they witness. Some of the professionals we interviewed were concerned that some tourists may misinterpret certain situations where an adult male has innocent contact with a child. We needed to be aware of these concerns when we analysed the information for this report.

**The use of place names:** Names of bars, restaurants etc has been excluded. This is in order to protect the children who are working in those areas, by not informing potential abusers about the existence of these locations. At the same time, basing large parts of a report on observations and anonymous sources always carries a risk. The investigative team heard of threats against informants by those who were assumed to be involved in the sexual exploitation of children.

## 3. Travelling sex offenders

The benefits of economic globalization, internationalization, and free trade have brought with them an unanticipated set of social problems. Among them is what appears to be a dramatic rise worldwide in the incidence of child exploitation. Among the most virulent forms of this exploitation is child sexual exploitation (hereafter "CSE")—including their commercial sexual exploitation of children (hereafter "CSEC"). Child pornography, juvenile prostitution and trafficking in children for sexual purposes, have emerged as significant problems on the national, regional, and international stages. So, too, has child sex tourism. CSE and the CSEC appear to be related in complex ways with other forms of child exploitation, such as the use of children in labor, drug and warfare settings. (Estes, R, J & Weiner N, A, 2002)

### 3.1 Terminology

The terminology used to describe the sexual exploitation of children has come under discussion. Although many people are aware of children being sexually exploited by 'tourists', the term '*child sex tourism*' has been criticized for being too narrow and not conveying the fact that many children are sexually exploited by other travelling groups. These groups include:-

- Business travellers
- Ngo employees working directly with children and other vulnerable groups
- Military forces working overseas
- Diplomats and governmental employees deployed over seas
- Expatriates or foreign nationals on extended travel
- Retired expatriates residing abroad

It is therefore important to recognize that a more comprehensive analysis suggests that those involved in the sexual exploitation of children cannot all be described as 'tourists'<sup>12</sup>. A preferred term that is used through this report is 'travelling sex offender'. Although the term 'travelling sex offender' is not adequate in distinguishing between those convicted of a sexual offence and the non convicted 'sexual exploiter', will we use the term 'travelling sex offender' throughout this report as a means of describing individuals who sexually exploit children while travelling abroad. The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is also used instead of the term 'child sex tourism' as this also reflects the broader aspects of the phenomenon.

Save the Children broadly defines child sexual abuse and exploitation as "...the imposition of sexual acts, or acts with sexual overtones, by one or more persons on a child"<sup>13</sup>. Child sexual abuse includes indecent touching, penetration and sexual torture as well as indecent exposure, using sexually explicit language towards a child and showing children pornographic material. People sexually abusing children may have an emotional or professional relationship with the child, where they exploit their position of trust and power. Children may also be sexually abused or exploited by abusers or third parties having a commercial or other exploitative interest in the child<sup>14</sup>.

Save the Children includes all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation under the general definition of child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse refers to the immediate abusive act towards a child and is the basis of the exploitation of the child.<sup>15</sup>

The legal age of consent defines when a child is legally regarded as being mature enough to consent to mutually desired sexual relations. The age of consent in most countries around the world is between 15 and 16 years of age. The legal age of consent has no bearing upon the legislation in regard to sexual exploitation and abuse. All children under the age of 18 must be protected from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation<sup>16</sup>. According to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child a child is any person below the age of 18 and therefore a child cannot give consent to be involved in sexual exploitation. A child give can give informed consent to engage in a sexual relationship when over the legal age of consent, but they can not consent to be involved in prostitution, production of child abuse images, live sex shows etc, before the age of 18<sup>17</sup>.

Since the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm in 1996, there has been a debate on whether to include in the term "commercial sexual exploitation" in regard to the sexual exploitation of children. Many involved in this debate have pointed out that the sexual exploitation of children is not always 'commercial' in relation to that involves the exchange of economic gain to the child in cash or kind when a child is abused. Save the Children therefore supported the outcome document from the Yokohama World Congress in 2001, which dropped the word "commercial" and addressed all forms of sexual exploitation of children<sup>18</sup>.

### **3.2. The Scale of the Problem**

This form of exploitation and abuse occurs in many parts of the world and there is research that has been commissioned by Ngo's (Save the Children UK, 2003; ECPAT 1994, Terre de Hommes 2003) Governments (David, F 2000)<sup>19</sup>, Academics (O'Connell Davidson, J 2005, ) and the Media (BBC News, 1998a, 2000b Jyllands Posten 2008)<sup>20</sup> that has documented the sexual abuse and exploitation of children related to travel and tourism.

According to UNICEF (2003) it is estimated that over 2 million children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade every year.<sup>21</sup> It is very difficult to substantiate these claims using scientific research methods as child sexual exploitation is very difficult to measure due to the secrecy, denial and criminal activity associated with this form of abuse and exploitation<sup>22</sup>. We will never be able accurately measure the numbers of children sexually

exploited in relation to travel and tourism, but it is important to undertake research so we can collate information on the dynamics and prevalence of this type of child abuse. This will at least provide indications on whether the measures that are put in place are actually helping to combat sexual exploitation of children.

Sex tourists travel to countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Costa Rica, Mexico and Brazil, expecting anonymity, low-cost prostitution, easily accessible children and impunity from prosecution. Notably, it is estimated that one-third of the prostitutes in Cambodia are children.<sup>23</sup>

The information gathered for this report would suggest that the vast majority of sexual abuse and exploitation in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma is committed by men from local communities and travelling sex offenders from other parts of Asia<sup>24</sup>.

But research and interviews with informants does suggest that men travel from Europe, North America and other parts of the world to sexually exploit children under the age of 18 within this region. It is difficult to confirm the number and nationality of travelling sex offenders when conducting this kind of investigation because of the difficulty in identifying and interviewing offenders.

The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism falls within the category of the prostitution of children. It is connected to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and to the production of child abuse images (child pornography)<sup>25</sup>. When investigating the numbers of sexually exploited children in Thailand, the Thai Department of Public Welfare estimated that there were between 12,000 - 18,000 children sexually exploited through prostitution in Thailand during 1998<sup>26</sup>. This is in contrast to the figures given by Ngos who estimates the number of children in prostitution to be in the hundreds of thousands<sup>27</sup>.

In Cambodia, a Human Rights Vigilance survey of 6,110 sexually exploited persons in the city of Phnom Penh and 11 provinces revealed that 31 % of those interviewed were children aged 12 to 17.<sup>28</sup>

According to Tom Steinfatt of the University of Miami, who studied the trafficking of women and children in South East Asia the number of under age children in prostitution has declined sharply in Cambodia. It is now a "very small" part of the sex industry there. His studies suggest that the number of children in prostitution is far below earlier estimates of 15,000<sup>29</sup>.

Very little information has been found about the scale of the problem in Burma, since research is difficult to undertake and information is hard to obtain from informants who fear reprisals from the authorities and criminal networks. The information in this regard is purely based on the investigative team's observation and interviews with local informants who would only talk to us anonymously.

It would appear from anecdotal evidence that the phenomenon of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism is on the increase<sup>30</sup>. This highlights the need for information to the general public in sending and receiving countries. It is of concern that some awareness campaigns set up to inform the general public do not appear to be reaching their target audience. There is a growing awareness in Denmark and other Western countries about the problem of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, but it is not clear how this information is being used by the general public in terms of child protection.

As a means of collecting evidence or data in relation to travelling sex offenders some governments and Ngo's operate hotlines which allow the general public to report incidents or concerns directly to the police. The statistics from the Danish police hotline show that very few people actually contact the hotline. Although this hotline is in its first year of operation, only 8 people have used the hotline up to October 2008, to give concrete information, according to the Danish National Police. This is combined with a reluctance to report incidents to local law enforcement agencies at their travel destination.

### 3.3. Why is sexual exploitation of Children a Problem?

There has been some research regarding the long-term effects and consequences of the sexual exploitation on children and the need for therapeutic intervention.<sup>31</sup> But the knowledge base still very limited in relation to the problems faced by these children.<sup>32</sup>

Children can be permanently impaired if they are forced to endure a high volume of sexual violence at a young age. Some children may have been sexually exploited in prostitution may have been continuously in pain due to sexually transmitted diseases and other infections. In addition children are susceptible to contracting HIV/AIDS<sup>33</sup> and they are unlikely to receive adequate medical care.<sup>34</sup>

Psychological effects may also be profound and long lasting. Sexually exploited children can suffer significant psychological trauma and stress, related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder following denigrating and dehumanising treatment by their 'employers' and customers<sup>35</sup>

In addition, if sexually exploited children do return to their home villages, they may be socially ostracised by family members and the community, who may deny them support from traditional social networks<sup>36</sup>. This can also lead to various social and psychological problems related to low self esteem and alienation<sup>37</sup>

Children are also at risk of physical violence from third party exploiters and sex offenders. Some children who make an attempt to escape or counter their abuse may be severely injured or even killed. Some girls may become pregnant due to the abusive act<sup>38</sup>.

Some children will be photographed or filmed for the production of child abuse images. These images of sexual abuse can be circulated via the new technologies quickly and easily, so it is impossible to remove them from circulation. The images are lasting reminders of the abuse and exploitation. The images can also be used as a mean of silencing the child and

used as means to control the child. The knowledge that the abusive images are easily circulated on the internet can also have a traumatic effect on the child<sup>39</sup>.

Levy and Willis have tried to estimate the global health burden of sexual exploitation of children. Although the numbers can be discussed there is no doubt that the sexual exploitation of children has very serious consequences on the health of the children.

**Estimated yearly occurrences of adverse health effects of the sexual exploitation of children (Base on an estimated 9 million girls and 1 million boys).**

Adverse health effect for sexually exploited children		Estimated yearly occurrence
Infectious disease	STIs	2,000,000
	HIV infection	300,000
	Human papiloma virus	4,500,000
	Hepatitis B virus	500,000
Pregnancy	Maternal deaths	4,752
	Spontaneous abortion	900,000
	Induced abortion	1,224,000
	Abortion-related complications	367,200
	Abortion related deaths	710
Mental illness	PTSD	6,700,000
	Attempted suicide	1,640,000
Substance abuse	All substances	9,000,000
Violence	Physical asult	2,500,000
	Rape	2,500,000
	Murder	2,500,000
Malnutrition		Unable to estimate
Adverse health effects in infants born to sexually exploited children		Estimated yearly occurrence
	Infant death	190,080
	Complications of STIs	237,000
	HIV infection	249,480
	Deaths from HIV infection	54,886
	Hepatitis B Infection	8,316

Source: Adapted from Willis and levy in Knowing Children (2008): Exploitation of children in prostitution thematic paper for the World Congress III Against the sexual exploitation of Children and Adolescents.

However evidences also shows that the effects upon children who have been subjected to sexual exploitation depends on a variety of circumstances i.e. the degree of the exploitation, the environment in which it takes place, how long the abuse took place, the resilience of the child itself, the sex of the child etc.

### 3.4. Demand and the travelling sex offender

#### What motivates travelling sex offenders?

The Four Pre Conditions Model developed by David Finkelhor (1984) can be used to understand the offending process within the context of sexual exploitation in relation to travel and tourism. It can be adapted to allow for comprehensive child protection measures to be implemented in terms of national and community based child protection systems. This method of child protection is discussed further in this report within the recommendations.

Men who travel abroad to abuse children can not **always** be classified as 'tourists' and not all will go to tourist destinations ECPAT UK (2006). Research suggests that travelling sex offenders can be divided into the following groups based upon their motivation and sexual preferences:

**Situational travelling sex offenders:** the situational 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 offender who is presented with the opportunity to interact sexually with a person under 18 and takes it. The majority of travelling sex offenders are classified as being in this group<sup>40</sup>

**Preferential travelling sex offender:** The preferential travelling sex offender display 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 travelling sex offender will generally search for pubescent or adolescent children. It is important to distinguish the preferential travelling sex offender from the paedophile<sup>41</sup>.

**Paedophile:** The paedophile manifests an exclusive sexual inclination for pre-pubescent children. 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<sup>42</sup>. There is a tendency to use the term 'paedophile' to describe all people who sexually abuse and exploit children. It is also important to establish that the vast majority of those involved in the sexual exploitation of children can not be classified as being a 'paedophile' if we relate this to The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM - 4)*. This is the standard classification of mental disorders used by mental health professionals in the United States and many other parts of the world. If we are to have a realistic definition of who the sexual exploiter is in this context, we should not be using the psychiatric definition of paedophilia if we are to understand the complexity of the problem.<sup>43</sup>

Travellers who can be defined as 'paedophiles', are motivated in a search for pre-pubescent children. Tourism and travel provides them with the anonymity that is conducive to seeking out vulnerable children. While the travellers explicitly seeking sex as part of his/her holiday may feel secure in the company of fellow travellers seeking the same objective, paedophile

abusers are attracted to places where their activities will go unnoticed and their motives in interacting with pre-pubescent children will go unsuspected. They are able to identify countries or communities in crisis, and knowing that the risk of arrest is small, will move to that destination and seek out vulnerable children<sup>44</sup>.

Some offenders, including paedophiles, who are classified as 'high-risk', are notoriously recidivist, so there is a high risk of re-offending. Many of these high risk offenders are constantly on the search for vulnerable children to groom and abuse<sup>45</sup>.

There is evidence to suggest that some men who abuse pre-pubescent children are organised in the sense that they communicate with other abusers to reach children they can abuse. The Danish men that Jacob Billing (2003) was in contact with in his investigation in regard to the Danish Paedophile Association could fall under this description. The internet and other new technologies have made networking with other sexual abusers very easy.

Holidays and travel in foreign countries provide a framework for experimental behaviours in an atmosphere of freedom and excitement. It also provides the anonymity that contributes to persuade people to act outside their normal parameters of acceptable behaviour. Research shows that a person is far more likely to enter into a commercial sexual relation on a holiday than at home and demonstrate that internal mechanisms that normally act as inhibitors, allow situational travelling sex abuser to use cognitive distortions about the child's true age or about the nature of informed consent<sup>46</sup>.

### **How do the travelling sex offenders justify the sexual exploitation?**

Karaoke clubs, nightclubs and bars usually attract situational abusers who contact and sexually exploit children. These men would not consider themselves as being child sexual abusers and will vehemently deny they are sexually exploiting children<sup>47</sup>. These men use cognitive distortions such as "at least she earns a bit of money," or "I think we are in love with each other," or "I am helping her poor family," or "she is in fact not a prostitute, but just working in the bar," The investigating team often heard these type of excuses from men discussing their sexual exploitation of children while talking in bars and restaurants in Asia. Many of these men openly discussed their 'sexual conquests' on board flights between Copenhagen and Bangkok.

There are traditional myths and excuses used by sexual exploiters to overcome their internal inhibitions: "It is safer to have sex with a child because she/he is less likely to have sexually transmitted diseases or even more having sex with virgins can cure AIDS".<sup>48</sup>

### **How do travelling sex offenders groom children and protective adults?**

Travelling sex offenders use their relative economic and social power to target children and avoid detection. Typically they go to places where they think, they will not get caught, often locations where there are low levels of education, poverty, ignorance, corruption, apathy, lack of law enforcement or government policy. The offenders include people who have

deliberately established orphanages, children's projects and schools in vulnerable communities for the sole purpose of feeding their abusive behaviour<sup>49</sup>.

Child abuse images (child pornography) are frequently involved in cases. Many arrests show that abusers have filmed the abuse of the child for their own personal use or to gain access to child sexual abuse networks by trading the abusive images<sup>50</sup>.

### **Who are the travelling sex offenders?**

Research suggests that the vast majority of children sexually abused and exploited in the 3 countries under discussion in this report, are abused by a person they know from their local community<sup>51</sup>. Save the Children UK states that 70% of the sexual abusers in Cambodia are local offenders rather than travelling sex offenders. In a study published by the Ngo World Vision the nationality of foreigners engaged in the sexual exploitation children in three districts were:<sup>52</sup>

27.5% French

26% Chinese

18.9% Japanese

11.2 % American

7.7 % Cambodian

5.1 % Thai

This investigation has also been able to document that offenders travel from Europe, North America and other parts of the world to sexually exploit children under the age of 18 within this region. According to research from ECPAT Italy the majority of offenders 'are ordinary men'. Their average age was 27 years with the majority being between 20 and 40 years of age. All socio economic groups are represented in this particular research study<sup>53</sup>.

The vast majority of travelling sex offenders is men, but research has shown that women are also involved in the sexual exploitation of children and young people. Research in the Caribbean (Sanchez - Taylor, J 2001) and O' Connell-Davidson, J (2006) suggests that a number of heterosexual females travelling to the Caribbean were able to use their economic and social power to sexually exploit boys and young men<sup>54</sup>. Their methods were different to male offenders in that they saw themselves as being 'seduced' by boys and young men in a kind of 'holiday romance' situation. This seduction process would involve women offering boys consumer goods and taking them out for meals and offering to pay for their education in some cases.

## Destination for travelling sex offenders

Destinations can change when prevention and protection efforts are stepped up in one country. Travelling sex offenders may choose to travel to another country when one particular area has become too dangerous and the risk of being arrested increases. Countries such as Brazil and Thailand have increased their vigilance and child protection systems which has meant that , travelling sex offenders are now targeting others countries such as Ecuador, Cambodia and Indonesia. The opening of transportation routes, unregulated mass tourism development, and accentuated wealth discrepancies can all cause an increase in the sexual exploitation of children within travel and tourism. Wealth discrepancies also causes destination for travelling sex offenders to shift from one country or region to another<sup>55</sup>.

Tourism is not the cause of sexual exploitation of children, but travelling sex offenders make use of the facilities offered by tour companies, hotels, resorts, restaurants, airlines and other transportation companies<sup>56</sup>. This means that the travel and tourism industry have a responsibility to protect children as part of their corporate social responsibility initiatives when developing new tourist destinations and transportation routes. The code of conduct is a good example of how the industry has attempted to deal with this issue in a positive way, but more needs to be done by the industry in cooperation with the World Tourist Organisation and Ngo's.

### Legitimate Business as a cover for sexual Exploitation

The investigative team was able to witness forms of child sexual exploitation where legitimate business was being used as a front for sexual exploitation. At a holiday resort in Cambodia, which has been purchased by a Russian national, the team were able to witness the sexual exploitation of women and teenage girls by guests invited to stay at the resort.

The investigative team was informed that in Thailand, manicure and hair dressing salons in some areas were being used for sexually exploitative purposes. Interviews undertaken with salon workers, shop keepers and young men distributing leaflets in Phuket, by the Thai investigator suggest that children and adolescents are being sexually exploited in these settings. The teams own observations would appear to support this as well.

While some bars and clubs are clearly defined as areas where sexual exploitation is taking place, other karaoke bars and public houses are perceived to be a places of 'romance' where the girls and women must be "seduced" by customers. According to O'Connell-Davidson (2005), the need for some men who travel abroad to feel that they are not sexually exploiting women and children, is part of their own cognitive distortions in denying the abusive aspects of their behaviour. They have to believe that they are seducing woman or girls within what they see as normative behavioural framework of what is deemed as being socially acceptable. These cognitive distortions allow some men to think they are not engaging in exploitative behaviour and could lower their inhibitions to have sex with teenage girls. Subsequently, karaoke bars often attract very young girls who believe that work in these locations does not entail having to provide sexual services.

### 3.5. Why are children and young people vulnerable to sexual exploitation?

Unpalatable as it is, we have to acknowledge the fact that prostitution is very often the best means of subsistence available to children as well as to adults. (O'Connell Davidson, J. 2005, p.80)

Poverty and social exclusion are generally acknowledged as being two of the major factors that make children vulnerable to sexual exploitation by travelling sex offenders. Social factors such as a lack of family support, poor educational opportunities and a lack of social protection force some children into situations where they are unable to make informed choices. The sexual exploiter is able to use economic and social power to take advantage of these disempowered children and their parents or guardians. The sexual exploitation may not always involve the exchange of cash or other financial inducements by the offender. Some sexual abusers are skilled at grooming children so they become emotionally attached to the abuser and this is then used by the offender as a means of manipulating the child. Some children may be persuaded to go with a travelling sex offender in return for food and shelter whilst research suggests that some teenagers may be persuaded to accompany a situational travelling sex offender in the hope of obtaining benefits enjoyed by their peers, such as new clothes, mobile phones and other consumer goods prized by teenagers<sup>57</sup>.

In some communities the sexual exploitation of children is denied or minimised thus allowing some members of the community to engage in third party exploitative behaviour. Some families may promote the exploitation of their own children, by expecting the child to help provide for the family, in an economic opportunism that serves the purposes of the travelling sex offender<sup>58</sup>.

The sexual exploitation of children is often facilitated through the internal trafficking of children from rural areas to tourist resorts, and across borders from countries without significant tourist industries. Children who are trafficked to meet demands of the sex industry are more vulnerable than local children. They are not able to access state or community based support systems as they have no right to residence in the place of their exploitation<sup>59</sup>. The trafficking of these children is often associated with organised crime<sup>60</sup>.

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism also involves transforming children and young people into a commercial commodity. They become 'sex objects' for the travelling sex offender and money earners their third part exploiters<sup>61</sup>.

Peer pressure and consumerism can also play a key role in facilitating the process of engaging children in sexually exploitative activities. Anecdotal evidence suggests that, teenage girls in northern Thailand travel to southern tourist areas during summer vacations to earn money to pay for their college fees and also buy expensive consumer goods they cannot usually afford. Many of these girls are subjected to sexual exploitation<sup>62</sup>.

In addressing the exploitation of children in travel and tourism, there are two interlinked and fundamental issues that confront all efforts to change tourist behaviour. The first is local demand. The second is the failure to recognise children as having rights, demonstrated through attitudes, behaviour and beliefs that result in young people being belittled and treated as objects. "Prostitution" of children and young people to visiting tourists does not happen by accident. Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism arises, in a cultural environment where there is a demand for adult sex services, and where there is a local tolerance of abuse of children by local communities. In such environments, using young people as sexual partners especially the socially vulnerable is not commonly seen by the general public as a crime against children or a violation of their rights<sup>63</sup>. These attitudes need to be changed if the local community is going to be able to act as a protective barrier in relation to the third aspect of the four preconditions model (Finkelhor 1984) that we suggest should be implemented as a holistic child protection strategy.

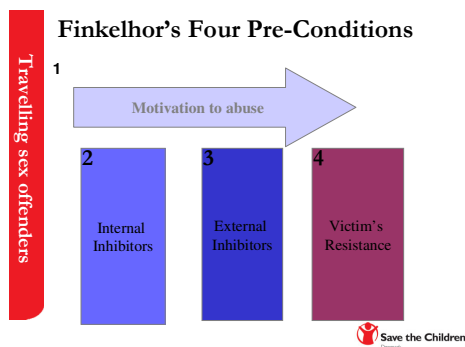
"I stopped going to school because of poverty. Then, I got a job in a garment factory in Sihanoukville, but the salary was low. Somebody introduced me to the brothel. Now I send money to my family and save a bit so that I may open my own grocery store in the future. I cannot continue like this. It is dangerous. I may get HIV. As it is, I only have local clients. I am too old and too fair for the foreigners. They only want dark skinned and very young girls." (S, 27 years)

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism arises in societies where child protection mechanisms are poor or selective where communities suffer from poverty and social exclusion and where sexual abuse and exploitation of young people is tolerated as if they were a matter of personal choice<sup>64</sup>.

When addressing the exploitation of children in travel and tourism it is necessary to take into account the patriarchal, abusive culture that tolerate the treatment of children as sexual objects without right to the dignity of physical integrity and the protection of their childhood and adolescence. This is the continuing dilemma in confronting the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.<sup>65</sup>

### 3.6. Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

It is important to develop a holistic approach to preventing the sexual abuse and exploitation of children by travelling sex offenders. This can only be achieved by different agencies working together with the general public in what has been called a Public Health Approach. This involves informing all protective adults about the facts in relation to child sexual exploitation so they are empowered to protect children. It also involves understanding how offenders operate so we can build appropriate child protection measures. This approach involves having appropriate sex offender management systems in place in terms of managing the risk of recidivism by convicted sex offenders and includes working with potential abusers who want to address their deviant sexual fantasies in relation to children.<sup>66</sup> The figure below shows how the four preconditions are interrelated in terms of the potential offender overcoming the 4 barriers.



The four-precondition's model (Finkelhor 1984) can be used for understanding how child protection policies and procedures can be implemented as a preventative measure. It can be proactively used to prevent child sexual exploitation by placing psychological and social barriers in front of the potential travelling sex offender. The model provides the mechanisms needed to protect children on four different levels, as described below:

1. Targeting the motivation of potential abusers involves offering counselling and support to those who have sexual fantasies and thoughts about children, thus reducing the level of risk to children.
2. Targeting the internal inhibitors of the potential perpetrator can be built through awareness raising campaigns that make the potential abusers think about the consequences of their actions.
3. Building external resistance and protection is achieved by informing and empowering the community about child sexual abuse and exploitation so they can act as protective adults for children. This empowered community can also report cases of sexual exploitation they witness of experience to the local authorities.
4. By informing children about sexual exploitation we are empowering them from a child rights perspective to be proactive. However it is extremely important to underline that the responsibility for protecting the children lies with the responsible adults in the local communities – children are not responsible for their own protection.

It is also important to understand the context in which the sexual exploitation takes place and to analyse the social, political, cultural and historical causes of the exploitation. There have been concerted efforts by Ngo's, government and travel industry to work on this issue in terms awareness campaigns and changes in legislation. But there still appears to be a lack of coordination in relation to what is know about sex offending behaviour and effective child protection mechanisms. The proposed model would bring all these factors together and improve efforts to protect children and is discussed further within the recommendations of this report as a child protection strategy.

### 3.7. A Global Response

There has to be a coordinated global response to the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Only by working together can Governments, INgo's, Travel Industry and Ngo's hope to protect children from travelling sex offenders.

A number of different instruments can be used to combat the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Among these are:

- The Convention of the Rights of the child,
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Trafficking of Children (2002),
- The UN protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000),
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (1979)
- The Declaration of the Elimination of violence against women
- The ILO Convention No 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999
- The ILO Convention (138) Concerning Minimum Age for admission to employment
- The UN World Tourism Organization Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism
- The UNWTO Global Code of Ethics in Tourism
- The Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice 1985.

Furthermore 3 World Congress' have been held in Stockholm 1996, Yokohama 2001 and Rio de Janeiro 2008 to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children each resulting in comprehensive final documents with recommendations to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

Over the last five years, there has also been an increase in the prosecution of offences for the sexual exploitation of children in relation to travel and tourism. At least 44 countries now have extraterritorial laws that allow the prosecution of their citizens for sexual offences against children which are committed abroad<sup>67</sup>. Although the numbers of prosecutions are still small this is seen as a step in the right direction.

In response to the phenomenon of child sexual exploitation, non-governmental organizations (Ngo's), the tourism industry, and governments have begun to address the issue of how to protect children from travelling sex offenders. The UN World Tourism Organization (*UNWTO*)<sup>68</sup> has established a multi agency task force to combat sexual exploitation of children. From early 2008 the mandate of the group was expanded to all forms of child exploitation. Save the Children Denmark has been an active member of this task group since 2001 and has been able to represent Danish Ngo's within this forum at biannual meetings.

The UNWTO is a strong promoter and supporter of responsible tourism. It convened a consultative process that culminated in the adoption of the Code of Ethics by its General Assembly meeting in Santiago de Chile. The Code of Ethics has been officially recognised by the UN General Assembly through a resolution adopted in December 2001, in which the World Tourism Organisation is further encouraged to promote and effectively follow-up on the expansion of the Code of Ethics amongst key stakeholders within the industry and related field. It is through this process that the Code of Ethics became the principal frame of reference for the responsible and sustainable development of world tourism<sup>69</sup>.

In 1999 UNWTO, ECPAT, and Nordic tour operators created a global *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* in 1999. As of end 2008, 900 travel companies from 34 countries had signed the code<sup>70</sup>.

### 3.8. What is happening in Denmark?

The Danish parliament changed the penal code on double criminality in 2006 to include the prosecution of Danish citizens who commit crimes against children whilst travelling abroad. This means that Danish citizens can be charged under Danish law for committing sexual offences against children when they return home, even if the crime is not illegal in the country the offence took place.

In response to the political decision a new hotline has been established by the Ministry of Justice. The hotline is operated the Danish National Police who have responsibility for the collection of data from Danish citizens who witness abusive or suspicious acts against children while travelling abroad. They can simply use this hotline to report their information directly to the Danish police.

In 2007 the Ministry of Justice established a multi agency task group under the responsibility of the Danish National Police. This group was established to bring together government departments (Justice Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Travel Industry and Save the Children DK as the Ngo. The aim of the group was to coordinate an effective response to Danish travelling sex offenders and implement a national information campaign.

An awareness campaign was launched in January 2008 and involved national press coverage and a dedicated website, [www.stopsexturisme.dk](http://www.stopsexturisme.dk), to promote the campaign. Posters were put up at all Danish International airports and advertisements were put in national newspapers. The information campaign was funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry

of Justice, SAS, the Danish Association of Travel Agencies and Save the Children Denmark. This inter agency response was established because a holistic approach is necessary when combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The purpose of the campaign was to inform the public about the existence of the new hotline, and request people to contact the hotline with suspicions. These posters and the website have made Danes aware of the police hotline, but as yet the hotline has not been used as many times as had been hoped for. So far there have been 2 investigations but no convictions for sexual exploitation of children by Danish Citizens outside Denmark.

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also funded Save the Children Denmark's child protection projects in selected areas of Thailand, Cambodia and Burma which look holistically at preventing children engaging in sexual exploitation.

Many Danish travel companies have now joined The Code of Conduct either in cooperation with Save the Children Denmark (who represent ECPAT in Denmark) or via their sister organizations in Sweden.

To combat the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, Save the Children Denmark has been working on many fronts to establish a good working relationship and cooperation with the travel industry, the Danish government and other actors involved in enhancing child protection at national and international levels.

At the international level Save the Children Denmark has been an active member of the following forums:

- United Nations World Tourist Organization Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism
- Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism
- Been active at the 3 world congresses on protecting children and adolescents from sexual exploitation.<sup>71</sup>

## 4. Sexual exploitation of children in Thailand

Tourism is a vital part of the economy in Thailand. The contribution of travel and Tourism to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to rise from 14.1% in 2008 to 15.4% by 2018. The contribution to the employment is expected to rise from 3,911,000 jobs in 2008 or 6% of total employment to 4,856,000 jobs, 11.9% of total employment by 2018<sup>72</sup>. The unrests in Bangkok kept many tourists from visiting Thailand in 2008. Some newspapers report a 20-30 % drop in tourism and rising<sup>73</sup> At this point in time we do not know whether the political unrest will have any impact on the long term tourism development in Thailand.

### 4.1 Government efforts to protect children from Sexual Exploitation.

It is just another go-go bar in a red light area in Bangkok where girls under the age of 18 are forbidden. But a foreign resident noticed while chatting on a social networking site that 14-year old girls are available in this go-go bar. During the investigative team visit it appeared that girls below the age of 18 were pole dancing nude. One girl has puffy baby cheeks framed by pageboy hair. Another girl has early pubescent features including no breast development. Most of the customers are Westerners. (Investigative team Visit to Go-Go Bar in Bangkok September, 2008)

Thailand has implemented comprehensive legislation in relation to protecting children from sexual exploitation. Please see information below. Despite this comprehensive legal framework the number of arrests remains small. In 2006 there were 10 arrests, 3 were jailed, 3 were acquitted and 4 were still awaiting trials<sup>74</sup>

#### Legal framework in Thailand

##### *Child prostitution*

*Thailand's primary law to protect children against prostitution is the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act. Under this law, prostitution is defined as sexual intercourse or any other act to gratify the sexual desire of another person in return for money or any other benefit, regardless of the gender of the people involved. While the law prohibits sexual intercourse or sexual acts in a "prostitution establishment" with a person under 18 years of age, regardless of consent, it also*

*prohibits public soliciting, advertising, or associating with another person in such an establishment."*

*A person who commits the offence of sexual intercourse or sexual acts in a prostitution establishment with a child will be punished severely with imprisonment and fines.*

*Thai law also punishes the parents of prostituted children. If the parent of a child knows or connives to have a child under 18 years old procured, seduced or taken away for purposes of prostitution, the parent may also be punished with imprisonment and fines.*

*The Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act further penalises those who own, supervise or manage a prostitution business or prostitution establishment. Under this provision, an owner, supervisor or manager of a prostitution business or establishment that involves children will also be punished severely with imprisonment and fines.*

*In addition to the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act, Thai criminal law contains several provisions related to sexual offences. Thailand's rape law prohibits sexual intercourse with a child of 15 years old or younger, with or without the child's consent.*

#### *Child Pornography*

*Thailand has a general obscenity law that prohibits producing, possessing, bringing, sending, or causing to be brought into or sent out of Thailand, or circulating by any means, for purposes of trade, public distribution or exhibition, any obscene material contained in printed matter, photographs, films, or audio or video tapes. This law also prohibits trading in or participating in the trade of, hiring out, or publicly distributing or exhibiting, obscene materials, or assisting in circulating or trading obscene material by informing others of the availability of the obscene material. Violators may be punished with imprisonment or/and*

*It is unclear whether the obscene materials covered by Thailand's obscenity law include child pornographic images. The law does not include digital or electronic images, which are the fastest and easiest ways being used now to create and transmit child pornographic images.*

#### *Extraterritorial Legislation*

*Thailand exercises extraterritorial jurisdiction over offences related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Thailand's Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act 1996 makes it an offence to procure, seduce or take away any person for purposes of prostitution, even if the acts that constitute the offence are committed outside Thailand. Violators may be punished by fines and/or imprisonment.*

*The Penal Code also contains provisions establishing extraterritorial jurisdiction for a number of sexual offences. Thai law also includes an Act on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters<sup>77</sup> applying to requests for assistance addressed to or from Thailand. Finally, Thailand entered into extradition treaties with ten countries including Belgium, Cambodia, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.*

*(Source: ECPAT International (2006) Global Monitoring Report for Thailand)*

## **4.2. Trends in sexual exploitation of children in Thailand**

Although there have been stringent governmental efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation in Thailand the investigative team found evidence that children were still being sexually exploited in different geographical areas around Thailand. The problem does not appear to be as open and obvious as it once was, but sexual exploitation of children is still apparent.

While some organisations, e.g. SWING (Service Workers in Group) based in Bangkok, may be able to reach children above the age of 15, the sexual exploitation of younger children remains hidden as they attempt to avoid being arrested or fined. This is due to the particular tough laws for children below 15 years described above.

Most organisations interviewed by the investigative team in Thailand stated that sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is on the increase.<sup>75</sup>

“Thailand is a hub for ‘paedophiles’. The country and the visa rules are very convenient, very comfortable. Most nationalities do not even need a visa, and when they have stayed the permitted time, they just have to leave for Cambodia or another neighbouring country for three days and then come back.” (Source: A senior officer in the Department of Special Investigation in Thailand)

It is difficult to separate the exploitation of adults in prostitution and the sexual exploitation of children via prostitution. The vast majority of sexually exploited children are teenage girls who are the victims of adult males who use their economic and social power to buy children and adults for sexual exploitation<sup>76</sup>. Many of these girls are situated in the same establishments as women over the age of 18. The sexual exploitation of adults over 18 is still visible in Thailand and it is therefore difficult to protect teenage girls and boys who are part of this environment.

It would appear that despite child protection initiatives being implemented child sexual exploitation still exists but is less visible. Criminals have exploited the fact that there are still visitors to Thailand, who seek to sexually exploit children. These third party exploiters aim to make money by facilitating contact between children and their abusers. Some of these

third party exploiters can be characterised as being part of organised crime, but others operate independently.

### 4.3. Where do the children come from?

Many victims of sexual exploitation in Thailand come from ethnic minorities in the North of Thailand. They are trafficked to larger cities within Thailand and come from villages in the North or North East of the country. A considerable number of children also come from Burma, Cambodia, Laos, and The People's Republic of China, Russia, and Uzbekistan<sup>77</sup>. The investigative team were also able to witness that adult woman, who appeared to be from east European countries, were also involved in the Thai sex industry.

When they arrive to Bangkok, Pattaya or other places where they hope to earn a living, they tend to rent a small room together where they sleep before going to the street, beach or park to find work. These children have neither education nor job opportunities at home. They are often aware of what is awaiting them, but many continue to live and work in Pattaya to support their families and in an attempt to realise a dream of having a better life<sup>78</sup>.

It is important to note that boys are also vulnerable to sexual exploitation. According to Salweennews Magazine (2005), a large number of boys from Myanmar escape the political turmoil in their country to seek employment and seek better lives in Thailand. Many boys enter employment initially in Thailand on farms and construction sites, but because of the low wages and poor treatment received from their employers, they soon move into working as waiters in bars and from there they may end up being sexual exploited<sup>79</sup>.

### 4.4. How do travelling sex offenders get in contact with the children?

Children as young as seven or eight years are active in chat rooms and establish friendships with people all over the world. These vulnerable children are just a mobile phone call or an e-mail away when the potential abuser arrives to Thailand he went on to say (Source: A senior Staff member at Bangkok Hospital in Phuket.)

With the expansion of the new technologies, children are now able to use the positive social and educational aspects of online communication. But children, their parents and child care professionals must also be informed of the potential dangers of allowing children unlimited access to the new technologies<sup>80</sup>. Some sexual abusers are very skilled at grooming children online and can easily make contact with children in other countries<sup>81</sup>.

There is evidence to suggest individuals with a sexual interest in children and networks of abusers may interact with each other via internet and mobile phones to establish where

children can be sexually exploited. They may also exchange child abuse images as a means of establishing abusive networks and communities where child abuse images maybe exchanged. However research would suggest that the vast majority of sexual exploiters act alone<sup>82</sup>.

#### Thais hold Britons over sex claim

Thai police have arrested two British men, an American and a German in the beach town of Pattaya on suspicion of child sex abuse.

Police allege the suspects had hundreds of photos and videos of abused boys at their homes, an hour from Bangkok. The arrests came as a result of a joint operation between police in Thailand and the UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). If found guilty, the men - aged 45 to 66 - could face up to 20 years in jail.

Thai police said CEOP - under the auspices of an operation called Naga - had provided them with a list of about 50 suspected paedophiles who might be in Thailand. The police said the four men had now been taken from Pattaya to Bangkok's police headquarters.

The foreigners, all long-term expatriates in Thailand, were named by police as Malcolm Henry Payne, 59, and Robert Alexander Horsman, 45, both from Britain; Robert Roy Lond, 62, from the United States; and 66-year-old Fritz Deiter Blattner, from Germany. The four men will face charges of sexual abuse, illegal detention for a sexual purpose, and physical and mental torture of under-age boys. A 30-year-old Thai national was also arrested, accused of soliciting the boys on behalf of the men.

CEOP chief executive Jim Gamble said the arrests sent a message to European paedophiles who thought they could evade capture by travelling to countries where law enforcement was thought to be weaker. He said: "Britons who travel abroad to abuse children in the belief they can evade justice are a UK problem and we have a duty to protect every child, everywhere."

Thailand has become the focus of international concerns over the sexual abuse of children, following a series of paedophile arrests. (Source BBC 11 December 2008)

Photographs and video footage are often found during investigations involving travelling sex offenders, who have been arrested by the police. Many sex offenders use their own footage and photos as a means of getting access to and approval from organised child sexual abuse networks. Thus, when an offender is caught, the main evidence is often to be found on his camera or laptop. Digital technology allows some offenders to send their child abuse images via the internet to undisclosed recipients or to make their own CDs/DVDs etc<sup>83</sup>.

The ease of communication via the Internet and mobile phones has allowed potential travelling sex offenders to find their way to destinations where children are vulnerable to exploitation. This has made it possible for travelling sex offenders to find their information online in open and closed online communities from other child sex offenders.<sup>84</sup> Some offenders are able to establish direct contact to children or third party exploiters even before leaving their home country<sup>85</sup>.

Men less technically capable of using the new technologies to contact and abuse children, can always rely on third party exploiters to give them information about where to contact children. Brokers in the shape of taxi drivers, receptionists or people distributing leaflets attracting visitors to bars and discos, may establish contacts between men and children. There are many men and some women who make money indirectly by facilitating contact between travelling sex offenders and sexually exploited children in prostitution. This secondary form of economic exploitation has been discussed in the literature.<sup>86</sup> Often, these children are delivered directly to the perpetrator's hotel room.

A travelling sex offender may also search for options traditionally targeting the local market, e.g. karaoke bars and massage parlours.

A foreign resident was going to meet a friend in a small restaurant in Bangkok, but by accident he went through the wrong door. It turned out to be a massage parlour where he was instantly introduced to several women. The parlour also had a menu listing "special models" that could be ordered for a slightly raised fee. The girls on the menu were all underage. (Source an Informant who wishes to remain anonymous)

Bangkok's Red Light areas are stops on the general tourist track in Bangkok. Foreign couples and families visit the night market to see the many bars and various forms of 'entertainment' linked with a red light district. Most bars keep within the law and do not employ anyone under the age of 18

An elderly European man sits outside a bar in night market. He is with a younger woman and a child who plays with a group of street kids. Every now and then the street kids venture out to sell flowers. Each time the elderly man thrusts a few notes into the children's hands. When the children return to his table, the man has bought toys for them. This man may not be a sex offender, but it shows how easily vulnerable children can be groomed. (Observation by the investigative team)

Some children who roam and live on the street, work as freelance beggars, other children sell flowers or other small items. Both groups are vulnerable to exploitation by their clients on the street in red light districts or night markets<sup>87</sup>.

A foreign male at around 20 years picks up a younger Thai girl, goes with her to a bush, comes out and zips his trousers, while the girl continues cruising for clients. Another day the team notice a Western man at around 60 years of age sitting on a bench with a boy of around 16 years. They are both listening to music on MP3 players. The area gradually gets surrounded by young men who turn hostile towards the presence of the Danish investigator. Eventually, she is escorted by four of them to the park gate. (Observed by investigative team September 2008)

The investigative team were also able to observe suspicious behaviour by adults who appeared to be foreigners, on a square outside a shopping mall.

A skinny 'junkie-type' with greasy, longish hair, tattooed neck and clad in leather jacket despite the scorching heat flings the little girl roughly on the top of the low wall, quickly hitch up her panties, pull down her dress and releases her back on her feet. Being no more than five or six years old, the girl tosses around her head and avoids looking at the man. She is in obvious distress. Although the square outside the shopping mall is crowded, no one seems to notice. A few minutes later a woman with heavy make-up takes the girl to Burger King. The woman returns alone. The girl has disappeared through the back exit where the Thai co-investigator finds the girl "playing" with some foreign men outside the toilets. When the Danish investigator passes by the toilet a few minutes later, the girl has vanished. The woman and the junkie-type are still outside on the square where they have parked their cardboard guitar box. On the box is written in permanent marker: "The Bangkok-Phuket Baby road show." (Observed by the investigative team August 2008)

A senior staff member at the International Medical Center, Bangkok Hospital, Phuket informed that teenage girls work as caddies on Phuket's golf courses in order to find a foreign husband<sup>88</sup>.

#### 4.5. Pattaya

Pattaya has acquired the colloquial nickname "Sin City" and appears to be the main hub for sexual exploitation in Thailand<sup>89</sup>. Although the Thai authorities maintain that the beach resort is becoming a family destination, it was observed that the resort is mainly visited by males who are travelling on their own from different parts of the world<sup>90</sup>. They are being

catered for by thousands of bars and clubs where sexual services are openly on view. Some of these places of entertainment are able to offer their customers 'menus' with different forms of sexual services on the 'menu'. Most restaurants did not offer this form of service but the investigative team were able to witness some that did engage in this form of marketing for the local sex industry.

The investigative team were able to witness events that suggest that Pattaya's sex industry is trying to remain within the law by having a pretence, that only adults above the age of 18 are involved in the sex industry. Yet, the investigative team were able to confirm that Pattaya is a central meeting place for travelling sex offenders wanting to sexually exploit children in Thailand and other countries<sup>91</sup>.

Although the bars in Pattaya are not openly advertising the sexual exploitation of children, the investigative team observed that the main pedestrian street was busy with foreign adult men were in the company with what appeared to be girls under the age of 18. When the men decide to take the girl out, this often happens late at night when they may blend in with the many other men taking girls and women home from the bars. The investigative team was able to witness this event late at night on several occasions.

On a road near the beach a girl offers a foot massage. She wears braces and a very short see-through white nightdress. The girl explains that she came from the Eastern part of Thailand when she was 16. Still, she is not 18, so she says she cannot "work". But when four Indian tourists arrive shortly after, they want only her to massage them. The girl tells them to come back in 10 minutes when I have agreed to leave. (Observed by the Investigative team September 2008)

Some sources who wish to remain anonymous mentioned that some foot massage parlours and beauty salons in Pattaya appear to double as brothels with separate rooms behind the shop façade. Karaoke bars were also a place where the investigative team were able to witness that girls who appear under the age of 18 were being sexually exploited. This was also confirmed by a non Thai national who resides in the area, who wishes to remain anonymous.

#### **4.6. Phuket**

The investigative team did not observe the same number of bars and clubs associated with the sex industry in Phuket. According to some salon workers, young girls are allegedly found in certain discotheques with many budget hotels and guesthouses allowing these girls to stay overnight with their guests.

There is no denying that the go-go bars, girly bars and sex shows are a very visible aspect of the nightlife in Patong and to a lesser extent Karon and Kata. ....

The sex tourism sector in Phuket is nowhere near the scale of Bangkok or Pattaya but it is still an attraction for a large number of visitors and a major part of the tourist industry. (Source Know Phuket: Naughty Nightlife in Phuket)

#### 4.7. Sexual Exploitation of Boys

It is not only girls who are subjected to sexual exploitation, the investigative team were also able to verify through their observations that the sexual exploitation of boys takes place in Thailand.

Boys were observed being sexually exploited in parks that have a reputation for being meeting points in Bangkok for men who are willing to pay to sexually exploit boys. One park in particular is well known amongst men who are looking to meet and sexually exploit boys<sup>92</sup>. This park is a popular spot for jogging and exercise during the day, but in the evening the park turns into a place where boys are contacted and sexually exploited by men. These acts of sexual exploitation were witnessed by the investigative team over several hours' surveillance. The investigative team were unable to document the nationality of the sexual exploiters due to the covert nature of the surveillance.

In Pattaya the investigative team observed the following:

Outside the house in the lane child size sneakers are lined up. Later, a catering company brings food packages to the owners of the 'sneakers' and their guests. The voices of small boys could be heard coming from a window above where we are standing. (Observed in Pattaya by Thai investigator)

Below is a newspaper article from Pattaya News, which documents the sexual exploitation of boys by travelling sex offenders.

#### Finnish Man Accused of Pedophilia by 2 Thai Boys

After receiving information that a foreign national was entertaining a couple of under-age Thai boys in his room, Tourist police officers obtained a court order to go to the room in question and determine for themselves the veracity of the accusations.

Police officers went to the room in the New BR Inn hotel in Soi 12 Pattaya and found a Mr Mikka Pitkanen, a 29 year old man from Finland, in the company of two Thai boys, one aged 14 and the other just 11.

Mr Pitkanen was arrested and, along with the two boys, taken to Tourist Police headquarters on Second Road where he has questioned as to the reason why the boys were in his company. Both boys told police they willingly went with the Finn and stated they had been staying with him for three days. They claimed they had not engaged in penetrative sex but instead performed acts of an oral and masturbatory nature for a reward of 300 baht each time. Mr Pitkanen has been remanded in custody and will face a court on charges of engaging in illegal activities with minors.<sup>93</sup>

There was also one particular street in Pattaya that kept being mentioned during the investigation as a place where boys are sexually exploited. Outside this particular street the investigative team were able to witness boys who were accompanied by much older foreign males being escorted into bars and clubs. Because of the many guards outside the clubs and a high level of suspicion towards newcomers, the investigative team were unable to document actual sexual exploitation inside, but it was suspected that boys were being subjected to sexual exploitation within these establishments. This suspicion is reinforced by an advertisement in the magazine *Spice's* 36<sup>th</sup> issue August/September 2008. Here, photos of very young boys are part of an advertisement for a bar in Pattaya and the name of the area visited was mentioned in the article.

In Phuket, boys as young as eight are registered at the hospitals as rape victims. Although most of them have been violated by relatives or someone in the local community, a few have been abused by foreigners, The boys abused by foreigners are often picked right off the street, where they are begging or working. (Source: Senior staff members at the International Medical Centre, Bangkok Hospital, Phuket.)

In Patong Beach there is also a vibrant homosexual community performing cabarets and dance shows. Adult males involved in prostitution are very aware of the risks of their community being perceived as a place where sexual exploitation of children takes place.

The homosexual community have been involved in combating the sexual exploitation of children.

But there have been cases previously where some of the bars in this area have been used by men who sexually exploit children. On 10 October 2000 the newspaper Thai Rat described how the police had arrested men at a bar where several boys below 18 years were forced to serve foreigners:

Sometimes an old Western couple needed sexual services. The husband asked both of the boys to have sexual intercourse with his wife, and he did masturbation while watching all of them. Furthermore, the two boys said that most Western clients always took photos when they had sexual intercourse with boys and those Western clients disseminated their photos via e-mail among child sexual abusers and their networks. (Source: Thai Rat 10<sup>th</sup> October 2000)

When a group of underage teenage boys started hanging out a couple of years ago in Phuket, the community immediately informed the police, explains Ulf Mikaelsson, owner of Connect Bar. This intervention is to be commended and seen as a model for others to follow as means of community based child protection

#### 4.8. Longer Term Visitors to Thailand

Expatriates and long term residents with an aim of abusing children often settle in cheap areas of Bangkok where they are likely to get to know the less affluent and vulnerable communities. By supporting and making friendship with families and their children, the families become part of the grooming process and are therefore often unable to act as protective adults due to this manipulative and strategic behaviour by sex offenders<sup>94</sup>.

“Foreigners are not allowed to own land in Thailand, so they need a Thai wife. Often these women have children already, and sometimes these children are being abused by their new foreign step-fathers.” (Source: A senior staff member at the, International Medical Centre, Bangkok Hospital, Phuket.)

Thousands of Western males have chosen to settle in Pattaya, Koh Samui, Phuket and in other places in Thailand on a full or part time basis. Foreigners like to settle in these areas or remain in the area for extended periods of time, while they attempt to find temporary employment or start a small business. Many foreign residents choose to make it their home because it offers beautiful beaches, temperatures above 30 degrees all year and a friendly

population. Some marry their adult girl friends, establish a small bar or shop and buy a cheap flat in one of the many condominiums shooting up in different parts of Thailand. However, some are also there for the wrong reasons and are allegedly engaged in the sexually exploitation of children<sup>95</sup>.

Others may try to gain employment with children such as teachers or social worker with Ngo's to gain respect in the local community. It has been documented for many years that men with a sexual interest in children will attempt to gain access to children via employment or free time activities<sup>96,97</sup>.

Perhaps the most infamous example of this form of abuse of trust is Christopher Paul Neil, a 33 year old Canadian national who sexually abused boys and filmed the abuse to make child abuse images. Interpol were able to unravel the 'twirly' disguise he put onto the abusive images and made his face public on the Interpol website. After a short period of time when the media became involved he was arrested shortly after and is currently serving a 9 year sentence in Thailand<sup>98</sup>.

"There are many cases of Canadians, British and others who settle and act as teachers in Pattaya and elsewhere," (Source A senior staff member at the International Medical Center, Bangkok Hospital, Phuket)

It is rare that anyone will witness against the foreign sex offender, who has established friendship and dependence with their Thai hosts<sup>99</sup> (see below).

#### 4.10. Organised crime?

Many tourists are illegal residents in Thailand provided with fake visas by the mafia. Other marries Thai women and opens their own bars. Most of them are retired, and some are involved with abuse of children. But the victims are not collaborating with the police since they themselves agreed to be with the foreigners, and they do not report the abuse to the police, so it is very difficult to provide evidence," (Source: A senior staff member at the Juvenile and Women Division of the Royal Thai Police)

On interviewing local Ngo's our investigation revealed that the sexual exploitation for children in Pattaya appears to be protected by some Thai and Russian organised crime groups and is therefore considered 'no go' by many child protection agencies in Thailand. The seriousness of these allegations is exemplified by the fact that one Ngo has experienced two assassination attempts. Furthermore many other workers did not want to be identified during interviews with the investigative team.

#### Former shelter boss commits suicide after charges of child sex abuse

Nicholas Rabet, 56, the former deputy director of a children's home in north London in the 1980s has committed suicide. He was charged with sexually abusing up to 300 young boys in Thailand after being arrested in July 2005 but was later released on bail in May 2006. Rabet lured boys between the ages of six and fourteen to his home in Pattaya by letting them play computer games for free. (Source: ECPAT UK (2006) Newsletter connect to protect, winter 2006)

Very few child protection organisations work in Pattaya because of the threats and control of some of those groups that control the sex industry. One orphanage was mentioned several times as being a supplier of children for sexual exploitation and abuse. When contacted via e-mail, a representative of the orphanage politely refused to meet with the investigative team. Unfortunately, this also applied to the few other Ngo's who are active in the area.

According to the Danish national police, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and local sources who wish to remain anonymous, Pattaya is controlled by groups with vested interests in criminal activity.

According to various media sources, Danish 'biker gangs' that are well know for alleged criminal activity in Denmark, are believed to be white washing drug money in Pattaya and have had a base there for many years<sup>100</sup>. The Danish 'biker gang's (Hells Angels and Bandidos) have a powerful reputation in the area and back home in Denmark.<sup>101</sup> We were also able to talk with local individuals who maintain that the Russian and Thai organised crime gangs are thought to share control over the sex trade with the Danish biker gangs.

The Danish police liaison officer was able to tell us that there are a small number of child sex offender networks that are thought to be linked to rich foreign owned hotels.. The investigation team was unable to make contact with these hotel owners to verify this information

In Phuket the trade in children appears to be controlled by powerful local and foreign businessmen, which in turn are being protected by the local Thai criminal gangs.

“We suspect that paedophiles live in some of Phuket’s big houses with enforced security systems, high walls and closed-circuit camera surveillance. Such security measures make it very difficult for the police to get information,” (Source: A senior staff member at the temporary shelter for children and families in Phuket.)

It would seem to be an increasing trend in Thailand that child sexual exploitation and abuse has moved to private apartments and locations. This raises new concerns in how children can be identified and protected.

Some foreigners also own restaurants and clubs with access only for members. It is suggested that some of these ‘members only clubs’ act as a means of procuring children and women for sexual exploitative purposes. These people are all linked by networks, and they operate via closed chat rooms on the internet. Other foreigners buy toys for street children or take them to internet cafes and let them play games in order to gain the children’s confidence in an attempt to groom children. (Source: A senior member of staff at the temporary shelter for children and families in Phuket)

Although organised criminal gangs are involved, the sexual exploitation of children is much more complex and fluid to be controlled exclusively by organised crime. Most sexual exploitation is beyond the control of organised criminals and is conducted informally by individual offenders making contact with teenage girls and boys in bars etc<sup>102</sup>.

Networks of sex offenders against children have also attracted much interest, but there has been little written about them in either the research or academic literature. Networks may form within institutions, within extended families, or amongst groups of paedophiles. The vast majority of sex offenders against children, however, typically act alone. (Source: Grubin, D 1998)

#### 4.11. Problems of prevention and investigation

A decade ago visitors to Thailand would be confronted with posters and leaflets warning against sexual exploitation of Thai children. Today, Thailand is not perceived as being in the same situation as it was a decade ago in terms of child sexual exploitation. Development agencies and donors have turned their attention to nearby impoverished countries where the problem is now perceived as being more acute than in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam are two of the ASEAN countries that receive more aid and attention. This might also be attributed to the fact that Thailand has developed rapidly during the last few years, therefore aid from abroad has reduced considerably<sup>103</sup>.

The ASEAN Regional Education Campaign to Combat Child Sex Tourism has tried to put education material into all member countries.<sup>104</sup> Some initiatives in the shape of seminars and training of staff in the tourist industry are carried out by a few actors, e.g. the Office of Tourism Development supported by the organisation ECPAT. However, the Office of Tourism Development has no budget for this in 2008. Although the office is currently drafting a policy on child sex tourism, staff members complain that they lack knowledge and back ground information. ECPAT has taken the lead on protecting children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism through the Code of Conduct for the protection of children in travel and tourism.<sup>105</sup>

It is difficult to prevent preferential and situational abusers travelling to Thailand but information about the identity of convicted sex offenders could be sent to the law enforcement agencies in Thailand. Many sex offenders who reside in Thailand are able to exploit the lax visa regulations. When a visa expires, it is just a matter of a brief visit to a neighbouring country, and the visitor is permitted to get another entry stamp to Thailand upon return.

Thailand has very few direct links with authorities in Europe. The United Kingdom has introduced legislation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 that requires all registered sex offenders to notify the police when they intend to leave the country for three days or more.<sup>106</sup> While the USA and UK do warn Thailand when a person with child abuse convictions on his criminal record are about to board a plane to Thailand, most other nationalities, including Danes, may travel unhindered.

The Danish and Swedish response to combating child sex tourism and other organised crime activities has been to establish a Nordic Liaison Office in Bangkok. An initiative appreciated by organisations and authorities interviewed during the investigation.

#### Issues related to investigation of cases

European police forces depend on Interpol and close collaboration with the Royal Thai Police for arresting suspected sex offenders, but the Royal Thai Police complain that they need a search warrant before they may enter a suspect's premises. Before such a warrant is

issued any evidence may disappear under unexplained circumstances. According a senior staff member from SWING most children are also reluctant to witness against their exploiters for fear of reprisals.

Thailand has the capacity to video tape children's testimonies in advance to protect them against face-to-face encounters with their alleged perpetrators in court. The police have been provided with the necessary equipment, but it is rarely used. Some investigators do not feel confident using the technology involved.<sup>107</sup>

Police officers in Thailand are generally poorly paid which allegedly leads to corruption. Many offenders are able to bribe some police officers who then allow them to leave the country. The United States Department of Justice has commented on this as a problematic area in relation to protecting children from sexual exploitation<sup>108</sup>

In order to counteract corruption, Thailand has recently established the DSI (Department of Special Investigation) under the Ministry of Justice. The unit is to deal with international cases and organised crime, and it consists of experienced policemen from different departments and government officials from various ministries<sup>109</sup>.

Amongst others, the DSI is involved in investigating alleged 'paedophile' networks and chat rooms where children may be contacted by abusers.

One of the biggest frustrations for the police, however, is that most suspects either manage to sneak out of Thailand over land to neighbouring countries, or their embassies come to their help which means that Thailand loses the opportunity to impart a punishment.<sup>110</sup>

#### **4.12. Child sexual exploitation and HIV**

Many travelling sex offenders appear to have an unwillingness to use condoms, according to the organisation SWING (Service Workers in Group). A higher fee almost always creates access to unsafe sex, since the child depends on the income. Physically immature boys and girls risk tearing and wounds which increases the risk of transfer of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.<sup>111</sup>

Up to 80 percent of all prostitutes in the entertainment area of Patong Beach, Phuket, are infected with HIV Likewise, the HIV clinic in Patong Hospital tests 50 percent of all patients positive Patong Hospital's HIV clinic receives 15 year old children who have been sexually exploited. (Source: The Consul, Royal Danish Consulate, Phuket, and former member of the management of Bangkok Hospital Phuket which carried out the HIV survey)

The HIV clinic's outreach workers find that girls and boys below 15 are afraid to visit the clinic. Since the hospital belongs to the government, the children fear that they may be referred to the police or a government shelter.

#### 4.13. Connections between Thailand and Denmark

Since July 2004, the Royal Thai Police's Children, Juveniles and Women Division has received reports from Interpol to carry out investigation of 58 suspected foreigners, one of them being Danish. A couple of investigations are also being undertaken by the Danish National Police. It is not clear whether these cases are overlapping with the case under investigation by the Royal Thai Police.

The majority of identified travelling sex offenders in Thailand come from France, UK, Germany, Sweden, Finland and Norway, according to a senior official at the Ngo FACE (Fight Against Child Exploitation). The organisation has registered two Danish citizens. One Danish man was charged for sexual intercourse with a girl aged 14 in a hotel room in Pattaya in 1997. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment. Another Dane managed to escape Thailand after allegedly abusing two 13 year old boys in two villages in Thailand.

Sources within the child protection organisation SWING (Service Workers in Group) are also aware of boys who have been abused by Danish men, but as the organisation is not focusing on investigation, these cases are not registered. The same applies to those Danish men who stay at a hotel in one of Bangkok's tourist areas. One receptionist admits that Danish men have been involved in bringing children to the hotel, and the receptionist has witnessed one case where a Danish man kept a boy in his room.

Pattaya and the nearby Jomtien Beach is a very popular destination for Danish men to stay and to live. Around 30 Danish owned restaurants bear witness to the popularity of the beach resort with Danish holiday makers and expatriates being quite visible in daily life.

According to the Royal Danish Consulate, 150 Danes receive their pensions in Pattaya. There are an unknown number of Danish men who visit for shorter or longer periods where they can rent a room, arrange long-term accommodation in a budget hotel, or rent or buy a cheap flat in one of Pattaya's many condominiums.

A senior police officer <sup>112</sup>underlines that there are many Danish people living in Pattaya. He also suggests that some of these Danish nationals are involved in organised crime which may include the sexual exploitation of children. Some of these Danish nationals are illegal residents in Thailand on fraudulent or expired visas. He also mentions that some Danes marry Thai women to establish their own bar as a cover up for their illegal activities.

A Danish member of the Volunteer Tourist Police in Pattaya has been suspected for possessing child abuse images, and the Danish Consul in Pattaya, is aware of a private house behind walls and tight security systems where children are allegedly being abused. The Consul underlines that this information is not based on hard evidence, and that a comprehensive investigation requires a lot of time. Securing of evidence is difficult, and

Danish travelling sex offenders are part of wider group of individuals who have different preferences and modus operandi.

Phuket is a popular place to retire for Danish men, and many short-term Danish tourists in Patong are men who travel on their own, according to a senior official from TUI. TUI is Europe's leading tourism group that brings about 1400 Danish tourists to Phuket every week. The senior official from TUI stresses that the company has never heard of any confirmed Danish sex offender travelling with TUI. However TUI is a signatory to the Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, so it may not be totally by chance that prospective child sex offenders do not use their services.

The comparatively low numbers of cases under investigation or prosecution may not give a real indication of the situation in Thailand. It is believed that many men still escape justice for abusing children in Thailand. The lack of a national database in Thailand complicates proper investigation and prosecution of sex offenders. It is the responsibility of the individual police station – at times the individual policeman – at village, provincial and district level and there is no coordinated, central register available. Therefore, there may be other Danes under investigation in areas of Thailand not visited by the investigative team.

## 5. Sexual exploitation of children in Cambodia

In recent years, Cambodia has become one of the principal destinations for foreign sex offenders visiting South East Asia. This is primarily as a result of an established sex industry, a low age of consent, inadequate legislation, poorly resourced and uneducated law enforcement, and most importantly, poverty. Furthermore, a destination shift has occurred as a result of neighbouring and other Asian countries ensuring that the prosecution of child sex offenders becomes a priority.<sup>113</sup>

Tourism and travel is also a vital part of the economy in Cambodia. The contribution of travel and Tourism to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to fall from 19.7% in 2008 to 16.2% by 2018, although the total contribution in USD to GNP is expected to rise considerably in the same period from 1,801.5 Mill USD in 2008 to 3,856.9 mill USD in 2018. The contribution to the employment is expected to rise from 1,102,000 jobs in 2008 or 15.4% of total employment to 1,121,000 jobs, 12.7% of total employment by 2018<sup>114</sup>.

The visitor to Cambodia is usually struck by the extensive on-going information campaigns warning the foreign tourist in every possible manner of the consequences of exploiting children. Large bill boards show hand cuffs, others post hot line numbers to the police. Almost every hotel and guest house has stickers telling the guests to keep their “hands off Cambodia’s children”.

In 2007 Eleanor Brown<sup>115</sup> conducted a research study where 203 in-depth interviews were undertaken with women and girls working in direct and indirect commercial sex locations in Cambodia. Around 38 % of women entered commercial sexual exploitation through the sale of their virginity. The majority of these girls are Vietnamese while the Western clients made up for nine percent of the sexual exploiters. The rest of the abusers were either local men or Asian tourists.

### 5.1. Government Response

#### Legislation

**Prostitution** While the law currently criminalises recruiting for, managing, and facilitating prostitution, and prescribes additional punishments for offences against children under 15 years of age, it does not define or prohibit prostitution itself. As a result, Cambodian law does not prohibit the prostitution of children - use of a child for any sexual activity for

remuneration of any kind – as required under the Optional Protocol, which Cambodia ratified. Furthermore, while the rape law could potentially be used in prosecutions related to the prostitution of children, it requires the use of violence, coercion or surprise, and increases punishment only in cases where the victim is under 14 years of age.

The age of consent in Cambodia is 15.

Cambodian law does not specifically define or prohibit the prostitution of children, but its law defines a pimp or head/owner of a brothel and prohibits offences related to pimps. A pimp and his accomplices may be punished through imprisonment.

Another provision of this law that could be used in child prostitution cases is the offence of debauchery. A person who opens an establishment for committing debauchery or obscene acts may be punished with fines and imprisonment. A repeated offence doubles the terms of punishment.

Cambodia's law against rape may also be used to prosecute cases of child prostitution; it prohibits all acts of penetration of sexual organs using violence, coercion or surprise against a female or male person. Offenders may be punished with five to ten years' imprisonment

**Child Pornography:** ECPAT International's review of legislation found no provisions in Cambodian law that define or prohibit the possession, production or distribution of child pornographic images.

ECPAT International has not been able to access information on whether or not there are general provisions on pornography that could be applied to prosecute child pornography related offences.

**Extraterritorial Legislation** ECPAT International's review of legislation found no provisions in Cambodian law that can be used to prosecute crimes related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children committed by Cambodian nationals abroad<sup>116</sup>

(Source: ECPAT International (2006) The Global Monitoring Report for Cambodia)

On the investigative team's very first night in the capital Phnom Penh an American citizen was arrested for allegedly abusing a child in a park. The girl was 13 years old and had been exploited in prostitution for some years already<sup>117</sup>.

According to the ASEAN Child Sex Tourism Review (2007) the number of alleged Travelling Sex Offenders arrested in 2006 were 9. This was a decrease of 12% from 2005. The nationality of those arrested in 2006 were USA (4), Belgium (1), Switzerland (1), Germany (3).

Trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation purposes is on the rise in Cambodia concludes the *Strategic Plan 2007 – 2009* issued by the Ministry of Tourism: “With the growth of international tourists, the sex industry has blossomed and demand for young partners is on a continuous rise.” The strategic plan quotes numbers from the Ministry of Women’s Affairs showing that some 50 to 65 percent of sex workers have been trafficked and sold into the industry, and that 35 percent of these are below 18 years.

### **Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009**

In collaboration with the ILO-TICW project, the Ministry of Tourism established Child-Safe Tourism Commissions nationally and in three provinces. The Ministry also developed a Strategic Plan on the Promotion of Child-Safe Tourism to Prevent Trafficking in Children and Women for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in the Tourism Industry in Cambodia to cover the period 2007 to 2009 with multi-level activities. The Strategic Plan entails:

- 1) Research on the trafficking of women and children in the tourism sector;
- 2) Policy and institutional development for child-safe tourism;
- 3) Review and strengthening where necessary of appropriate national laws and regulations and following through on their enforcement;
- 4) Prevention efforts;
- 5) Protection for young women and children already working in tourism establishments through the provision of relevant services<sup>118</sup>

According to Niron et al. (2001) Governmental offices at provincial towns have structures from the top to the grassroots level, however in most cases managerial controls are poor and resources to enforce regulation are lacking. Inadequate resources, poor infrastructures and delays in strengthening the law and the systems for monitoring unlawful activities that use children for sexual exploitation by Travelling sex offenders, have gone unchallenged<sup>119</sup> This appears still to be the case in 2008<sup>120</sup>

“Diplomacy does not work against child sexual abusers – they do not care about billboards.”  
(Source A senior official at APLE- Cambodia)

Some child protection organisations like APLE (Action Pour les Enfants) are mainly focusing on the investigation and exposure of foreign Travelling sex offenders. As mentioned above this appears to have forced the offenders into new patterns of behaviour.

There is a huge push to learn English in Cambodia, and thus sex offenders have been known to pose as English teachers giving them an excuse to invite children into their private residence or guesthouse. Such sex offenders might charge a reduced rate for lessons which ensures the parents' support and trust. Consequently after developing a relationship with the child through a number of classes, a platform for abuse has been established.<sup>121</sup>

As a consequence, investigations are becoming complicated and this could result in child sexual exploitation becoming invisible with children in need of support becoming difficult to reach for governmental authorities and child protection organisations.

#### US 'pedophile' arrested for rape, torture in Cambodia

AFP, PHNOM PENH  
Wednesday, Jun 21, 2006, Page 4

A US national has been arrested in Cambodia for allegedly raping and torturing at least three young girls, police said yesterday, adding that there may be many more victims.

Michael Joseph Pepe, 53, who works as a teacher, was arrested in Phnom Penh after police raided his home on Saturday, said Un Sokunthea, director of the department that fights human trafficking. Three girls, aged nine to 11 years, and a 20 year-old woman were found in the house and are thought to be only some of Pepe's victims, she said.

"He bought children from the countryside to rape, and he also tortured them while raping," she said, adding that Pepe filmed the incidents. Police confiscated hundreds of pornographic pictures of young girls and other items allegedly used by Pepe, including rope which was used to bind his victims, she said. The mother of one of the three young girls found in Pepe's home was arrested for selling her daughter to the suspect for US\$300, police said. The mother of the other two was arrested for renting her daughters to Pepe for sex for US\$30 a month, they said.

A Vietnamese woman was arrested for helping find the children for the suspect and teaching them to have sex with him, Un Sokunthea said.

US embassy spokesman Jeff Daigle confirmed the arrest. "Officials from the US embassy and the US Department of Homeland Security provided assistance to the Cambodian police during their investigations of allegations against Pepe involving child sexual abuse," he said. "We definitely commend the Cambodian authorities for their swift reaction to these allegations," he said.<sup>122</sup>

Despite intervention by the police in Phnom Penh<sup>123</sup>, prior to the investigation, sexual exploitation is still very visible in Phnom Penh. Most brothels have resorted to keeping the youngest girls out of display, and the street based prostitution has become more scattered along main roads, in parks and outside tourist spots.

### 5.3. How do travelling sex offenders contact children?

Most travelling sex offenders organise their own travel and accommodation in Cambodia, but some Asian travel agents allegedly prepare organised tours for travelling sex offenders. Some Japanese tour leaders were heard announcing, that they may arrange young girls for the participants<sup>124</sup>,

According to Brown, E (2007) some girls are approached directly by men for sexual exploitation purposes, particularly in karaoke bars. In many instances the sexual exploitation of a girl involves the purchase of her virginity which is brokered by local agents<sup>125</sup>. The local agents are often managers in higher class karaoke establishments. Sexually exploited children rarely receive much of the income which has to be shared between the brothel owner or karaoke manager, motorbike taxi drivers and local recruitment agents. Julia O'Connell Davidson (2005) also discusses this issue in relation to her research on third party exploiters.

I left home because my family is poor. I wanted to earn money to send home. Somebody I know took me to work in a karaoke place in Phnom Penh. I just wanted any job. I was 16 years old. After work I went to the riverside. Four or five foreigners came to the karaoke place, but along the riverside I saw many foreigners contacting the children, and I saw many bad things happening. (S, 18 years, CCPRC shelter home, Cambodia)

During the time of the investigation the third party exploiters appear to be frequently used by travelling sex offenders, in order to avoid direct contact with the children in public. The third party exploiters are typically attached to brothels, or work as motorbike taxi drivers, tuk-tuk drivers, staff members of hotels, guesthouses and restaurants. The child can easily be contacted via mobile phone calls, which is easy, and makes it safer for the travelling sex offenders who does not have to be seen in public. This particularly seems to be the case in areas like Sihanoukville where there are established "paedophile networks", according to the report "The Ties that Bind. Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia"<sup>126</sup>.

Children are vulnerable to being sexually exploited if they are working around holiday resorts. The children have traditionally been employed to sell fruit and souvenirs on the beach or picking cans and other scrap materials for recycling. On a previous visit to this area the investigation team had observed children could be seen being subjected to sexual abuse while playing or swimming in the sea with the offender. On this visit we did not observe children being sexually abused in the same way. It would appear that the risk of being prosecuted has increased due to information campaigns and monitoring by Ngos. This is probably the reason why travelling sex offenders have been removed from public view. This largely backs up the view that third party exploiters are being used by travelling sex offenders to make contact with children.

The bar is surrounded by a high table and bar chairs where a few tourist couples are having dinner. Inside the bar a British man in his 40s is flirting with two young girls. After having had a few beers the three of them get up and leave on his motorbike. Next day, the investigative team spots the youngest girl selling fruit on a beach. Her girl friends say that the girl is only 14 years old. Two other girls were later seen in what appeared to be a search for clients on the same beach – one of them appeared to be a very young teenager. She was dressed in a very provocative way. (Observation by investigative team)

In previous visits to Sihanoukville the investigation team had observed that foreign men playing interacting with beach children or doling out money to them. These men would normally spend a day or two gaining the child's confidence before they would take the child to his guesthouse. During this investigation period the grooming method appears to have changed. In Sihanoukville, travelling sex offenders are now using the same methods that we observed in Thailand i.e. renting private houses and befriending families in the neighbourhood by giving money, school books, gifts, clothes etc.<sup>127</sup> This should be taken into account when the Cambodian Governments and Ngos implement protection measures.

It is around dinner time, and all restaurants along the river are brightly lit. Part of the river is fenced off due to an on-going beautification project of the river front. On the pavement along the fence a Western man of around 40 years carries a boy of maybe 14 years on his back. Half an hour later the investigative team sits outside a popular restaurant when the man – easily recognisable in a shabby green t-shirt – walks past a couple of times within a few minutes. Then he disappears into a guesthouse and the boy – also easy to recognise with a slightly girlish haircut – appears. He openly tries to pursue single men passing by the place where he hangs out on the pavement. (Observation by investigative team)

According to ECPAT Cambodia, travelling sex offenders use direct and long term sophisticated grooming processes to contact and sexually exploit children. The more direct approach involves the offender attempting to attract street children with toys and money when sitting along the river front, in restaurants or while visiting tourist spots. This phenomenon appears to have decreased recently, probably because of the awareness raising efforts so widespread in Cambodia. The long term sophisticated grooming processes, that can take as long as three years in some recorded cases, appear to be on the increase. The long-term manipulation of victims and protective adults ensures that very few people become suspicious of the interaction between the 'kind foreign men' and Cambodian children<sup>128</sup>.

### New technologies

Foreign child sex offenders therefore have unlimited access to the internet in most urban parts of Cambodia which they undoubtedly employ as a grooming tool to desensitise children to acts of abuse and create a method of communication when the sex offender is abroad. Furthermore, Cambodian children are new to the concept of online child abusive images and the extent of the transmission of these images and thus might not view posing naked, when asked to do so, as an act of child sexual exploitation.<sup>129</sup>

In Cambodia the new technologies (internet, mobile phones, digital cameras etc) are also used to facilitate and record the abuse of children. The newspaper article below is just one of many which document that travelling sex offenders use digital cameras when producing child abuse images related to their abuse of children in Cambodia. The easy use of the new technologies allows sex offenders to produce, distribute and collect child abuse images in relation to their abuse of children while travelling. The images are used for their own personal gratification when they return home or as currency to obtain other images from abusers they meet online or in person. They may also be sold for commercial gain<sup>130</sup>.

An abuser made legal history by being jailed in Britain for offences involving children in Cambodia and the Philippines. Peter Swale, 49, took 584 indecent photos of children in his hotel room and abused a boy aged 11 while on trips to South East Asia from 2001 and 2004. He was caught downloading other indecent images at an Internet cafe in Ipswich. A total of 3,865 images were found by police on his home computer in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Swale, a lorry driver, from New Zealand, was jailed for three years and nine months at Ipswich crown court. He was banned from working with children for life. (The Daily Mirror, 11 May 2005)

The vast majority of the women and children who are sexually exploited in the Svay Pak red-light district are Vietnamese immigrants<sup>131</sup>. It was stated by anonymous sources to the investigative team that the 'trade in children is a very profitable business' in this area. Access to children is usually negotiated by a motorbike or tuk-tuk driver who also

negotiates the price with the 'pimp'. A child as young as five or six costs around 200 dollars, depending on the tuk-tuk drivers' negotiation fee and skills.

The investigative team observed that the sexually exploited children are no longer visible, but they appear to be selected by exploiters from a photo album or purchased anonymously from a third party exploiter. The sexually abusive act may take place in the park itself, or the tuk-tuk driver will transport the child to the travelling sex offender's guesthouse.

The young girl stands between the legs of the Western man sitting on a bar stool. Her head and his belly are almost at the same level, and she nearly disappears in his embraces. Eventually the girl tries to push the man away, but he neglects it and grabs her between the legs while chatting with his two friends. (Observation by investigative team in Cambodia)

Another way in which sexual exploiters are able to manipulate Cambodian legislation is by bringing two girls, where one is above the age of 18. This makes it easier for the perpetrator to claim that he only sexually exploited the older girl if he is arrested by the police<sup>132</sup>.

In all red light areas visited by the investigative team it was observed that many of the girls appeared to be under the age of 18. However it was also observed that travelling sex offenders were able to come into contact with younger girls via third party exploiters.

Smaller mobile groups of children who are exploited in prostitution, are often exploited twice both by the travelling sex offender and by the third party exploiter ('pimp'). These are some of the hardest groups to reach and protect as they are kept in private houses before being escorted to work in bars and discos at night time.

The third party exploiters have also become more cautious. The investigative team observations revealed that it may take several discussions to convince these brokers that a potential client is not a disguised representative of a child protection organisation or an investigative journalist.

#### **5.4. Long Term Residents**

Many of Phnom Penh's foreign travelling sex offenders are long term residents or expatriates living in the city. Generally they have their own flats which are a lot safer than hotels and guesthouses where many staff members have been trained to spot sexually exploitative behaviour. More sophisticated perpetrators will attempt to hide their exploitative behaviour by living in a small guesthouse but renting a flat away from this place of residence solely for sexually abusing children. Others take the children to visit holiday resorts outside Phnom Penh<sup>133</sup>.

Some travelling sex offenders obtain employment as English teachers or launch their own organisations and children's homes. According to several sources we spoke with, establishing a non-governmental organisation is a fairly straight forward procedure in Cambodia.

### 5.5. Sihanoukville – Sexual exploitation and the relation to drug addiction.

Sihanoukville consists of a string of beaches surrounding a peninsula where the town and several red light areas are situated.

In Sihanoukville the investigative team observed that some men still pick up children on the beach, but only late at night where they may carry out the sexual act in an unlit stretch of the beach. Others pick up slum children or strike a conversation with street children gathering every night at one of Sihanoukville's petrol stations. Most children happily accept an ice cream, and when the men promise to take them around to see new places, they just follow. Ultimately the offender brings the child to a park for sexual exploitation purposes. Many of these children are addicted to drugs. This was also observed by Kathrine Keane (2006) conducted 26 in-depth interviews of children who were sexually exploited on the streets in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. Out of these 38% were using or had previously used drug (sniffing glue or taking "Yabba" (a methamphetamine substance taken by inhalation) While drugs are easily available, drug rehabilitation centres are scarce in Cambodia<sup>134</sup>.

"Some foreigners say that they do not bring money to the beach. When we sell fruit or souvenirs to them, they ask us to come with them to get money from their room. I know one boy who was abused when he went to get his money." (Source: Girl selling souvenirs on the beach)

### 5.6. Koh Kong

Koh Kong is a small town on the southernmost border near to Thailand. Until a few years ago the lack of roads and bridges made it inaccessible to the rest of Cambodia. For at least two years in Koh Kong province a network trafficked hundreds of children a month into Trat province, Thailand. Some children were drugged and forced into prostitution. Other children who were sent to work on fishing boats were often arbitrarily tossed overboard to drown. ("Child slavery ring uncovered in Cambodia," *Associated Foreign Press*, 19 December 1997<sup>135</sup>). It appears from our own observations that the town is still considered to be remote and uncontrolled by law enforcement agencies<sup>136</sup>. The town appears to be wealthy with numerous new and big houses compared to other areas of Cambodia.

Koh Kong acts as a transit point for backpackers travelling overland from Thailand to Sihanoukville. Tourism appears to be a very important part of the economy. Tourists include long-term residents from Thailand on so-called visa runs. By leaving Thailand for a few days, these people – generally men – are entitled to yet another stay in Thailand.

To cater for these relatively few foreigners, a dozen or so bars and guesthouses have been established by foreigners who have lived in Thailand in the past<sup>137</sup>. As one source puts it, “Koh Kong is for foreigners that have been kicked out of Thailand.”: The weblogs below suggests that sexual exploitation is happening in Koh Kong.

Koh Kong is a great small town, have been coming here for 6 years to make visa, and stay 4/ 5 days. There are many shops and restaurants you can find a girlfriend in town; If I was a taxi girl, I would go to the the Bar because it has the best food and the most patrons.  
And  
“Koh Kong is a great little place some beautiful girls short time \$5 they beat the Pattaya lot”  
And  
“He has found me some realy young girls and hen keeps his gob shut but it does cost but who cares. I would never stop any where else. gd bless doug” (Source: Pookaibooks.org)

The Investigative Team were able to observe that many sexually exploited girls and women are to be found down a mud track just outside the city in the tin shed village brothel. As is suggested on the web blog above men visiting these bars see the girls and women as a source cheap sexual exploitation. The investigative team were able to interview a motorbike taxi driver who informed them that clients either go to this particular bar, or they send a motorbike taxi driver to negotiate the price with the 'pimp' so the girls can be transported to their guesthouse. \_

The ..... 'BAR GUEST HOUSE; IS RUN BY KIWI BOB HE RUNS SEX TOURS TO THE ..... THE BROTHEL AREA AND TO THE PRIVATE HOUSES WHERE THE GIRLS AND BOYS ARE AS YOUNG AS 9 OR 10 HE IS AN ODIOS PIECE OF SHIT I WISH I KNEW WHO TO REPORT HIM TO BUT I HAD TO LEAVE THE NEXT DAY FOR BANGKOCK TO FLY OUT SOMONE THERE PLEASE DO SOMTHING AS THIS CAN NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO ON' (Source: www.pookaibooks.org)

The investigative team also spoke to one of the foreign guesthouse owners without disclosing the real objective of visiting Koh Kong. The middle aged man said he was German and told he had five rooms. The two young women working at the bar were dressed provocatively and automatically distributed small shoulder massages to foreign male visitors.

One of the visitors also claiming to be German is still living in Thailand. He was in Cambodia to sort out his Cambodian visa and showed the Cambodian researcher his mobile phone with the number of the person who is to help him. It turned out to be a very high ranking person in the police. This German said that he was involved in some “bank business,” but that he was considering shifting to Cambodia as “Thailand is currently changing its tourist policies to get rid of all ordinary tourists so they may attract rich Middle Easterners or medical tourists.”

## 5.7. Angkor and other places

The famous Angkor Ruins in Siem Reap in the northern part of Cambodia attract millions of foreign tourists. Although the investigative team did not have time to carry out investigation in Siem Reap, several organisations have provided information that helps cast light on the methods used by travelling sex offenders in Cambodia.

Angkor Wat attracts immigrants from all over Cambodia looking for jobs. Siem Reap has many street children and this appears to have been behind the expansion in the number of residential child care institutions established by well meaning volunteers.<sup>138</sup> Unfortunately, many of these residential homes have no child protection procedures, and the volunteers are not always aware of how travelling sex offenders operate<sup>139</sup>. The investigation team were informed by Chab Dai Coalition that children are sometimes allowed to join visiting foreigners on their temple tours. Some of these children have allegedly been abused inside the temple ruins or in guest houses close to this famous tourist attraction.<sup>140</sup>

Some foreigners also pretend to “adopt” children. The grooming processes adopted by these travelling sex offenders include financial contribution to the child’s family upon return to their own countries. This is to ensure that the family do not inform the police<sup>141</sup>. The Chab Dai Coalition receives three to four calls every month from children who have allegedly been abused by travelling sex offenders.

An increasing number of travelling sex offenders are from other Asian countries. “This is the biggest and most booming group in Siem Reap. They come on package tours to have sex with virgins” (A senior officer at the International Justice Mission)

While the beaches of Sihanoukville, the ruins of Angkor Wat and Phnom Penh have long been known to attract travelling sex offenders, but different informants now suggest that a new trend is being established where travelling sex offenders tend to visit places well away from established tourist areas. This appears to be in response to the increased awareness of child sexual exploitation. Few organisations or government agencies are working outside the established tourist areas in Cambodia, but this appears to be changing<sup>142</sup>.

## 5.8. Organised Criminal Activity

It appears that the sexual exploitation of children has not attracted the same level of organised crime as in other countries. In Thailand almost every informant mentioned the Russian and Thai mafia as one of main obstacles when trying to combat the problem of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, few informants outside Sihanoukville were worried about organised crime. But the first indications that sexual exploitation of children is becoming more organised, is apparent in the way that third party exploiters are becoming involved in the facilitation process.

A Russian citizen who bought parts of Sihanoukville in order to create his own holiday resort is suspected of using this resort for sexually exploitative purposes. It is believed that sexual exploiters will use their economic purchasing power to sexually exploit adults and children at this new resort (Source: A Senior Police Officer at the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department, Cambodia.)

A Russian investor with powerful sway in the Cambodian community was sentenced to 13 years in prison and ordered to pay \$100,000 USD in damages to the victim in April 2008. The victim, 14 years old at the time of the abuse, was brought to the Russian by a Cambodian pimp. Additional charges of debauchery are pending against the Russian in cases related to 18 other victims, making him the subject of Cambodia's largest-ever paedophilia investigation. The Russian was the chairman of an investment company which had been granted permission in 2006 to build a \$300 million resort on Snake Island off Sihanoukville. (Source: International Justice Mission)<sup>143</sup>

## 5.9. Problems in prevention and protection

Both boys and girls are sexually exploited in Cambodia<sup>144</sup>. However the sexual abuse and exploitation of boys is not recognised by Cambodian society as being a major problem. These levels of denial mean that Cambodian society is not able to protect boys from travelling sex offenders. Under these circumstances sexually exploited boys are unlikely to disclose the abuse.

The problem of corruption appears to be quite serious in Cambodia. According to a World Vision<sup>145</sup> study in 2001, 26.2% mentioned it as being the main barrier to the prevention and protection of children is that the sexual exploitation is supported by high ranking governmental officers. APLE<sup>146</sup> (2006) In order to counteract this problem, several non-governmental organisations carry out their own initial investigation and collect evidence that may eventually be handed over to the police if the organisation finds that the case to be valid. The Cambodian police point to the lack of resources and lack of support from sending countries<sup>147</sup>.

According to a senior officer at International Child Safe, a 20% growth rate in tourism will mean that a higher number of travelling sex offenders will travel to Cambodia. He believes that the country is not ready to handle the influx of these travellers. There will be an increase in demand with the influx rate of offenders and therefore there will be a market to supply this demand<sup>148</sup>.

### **5.10. Danish travelling sex offenders in Cambodia**

Interviews with Ngos and law enforcement agencies did not reveal any cases of Danish citizens being arrested for the sexual exploitation of children. There was anecdotal evidence to suggest that in one case a travelling sex offender used a Danish passport, however it appears this person was a German citizen.

There are some indications that Danish travelling sex offenders also target Cambodia as a destination for sexual exploitation. The investigative team were told by several reliable sources that Danish citizens had been in the sexual exploitation and abuse of Cambodian children.

## 6. Burma – an emerging destination for travelling sex offenders?

Burma has witnessed a growing impoverishment and deteriorating social service structures which have pushed millions of households to the edge of survival, leaving them vulnerable to economic crisis or natural disasters. If not addressed, the increasing levels of household insecurity could lead to further human suffering, and could eventually escalate into a major humanitarian crisis<sup>149</sup>.

Based on the current political situation, the EU has imposed restrictive measures on Burma. The EU common position calls on its members to enforce: a ban on visas for members of the regime and their families; a freeze on assets of the regime; an arms embargo; and restrictions on development assistance to the regime<sup>150</sup>. The issue of sanctions is debated widely in the Danish Media<sup>151</sup>.

Twenty years of aid restrictions – which see Myanmar receiving twenty times less assistance per capita than other least-developed countries – have weakened the ability of parents and communities to promote children's rights<sup>152</sup>. Poverty is seen as a major factor for pushing children into sexual exploitation,

Burma was struck by Cyclone Nargis on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008. This resulted in massive devastation rendering two-three million people homeless and out of work. Thousands of children lost family members overnight<sup>153</sup>. At the time of the field investigation for this report many people were still affected by the consequences of the cyclone.

The EU member states, including the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are discouraging tourists from visiting Burma in the present situation. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also encouraging Danish Travel Agencies not to offer or arrange trips to Burma<sup>154</sup>. Despite this advice the tourism industry plays a substantial role in the economy of Burma. The contribution of travel and Tourism to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to rise from 6.3% in 2008 to 6.5% by 2018. The contribution to the employment is expected to rise from 1,297,000 jobs in 2008 or 5.8% of total employment to 1,638,000 jobs, 6 % of total employment by 2018<sup>155</sup>.

As mentioned above Burma is a sending country of many children who end up being sexually exploited in Thailand<sup>156</sup>. Many Burmese nationals seek opportunities in neighbouring Thailand, but often find themselves being exploited as illegal workers in factories or as housemaids. Girls are trafficked into brothels in Thailand, China and other Asian countries<sup>157</sup>. However the focus for this investigation was to establish to what extent travelling sex offenders exploit children in Burma

Officially the Burmese government does all it can to ensure that “child sex tourism” does not occur in Burma<sup>158</sup>. The Burmese police and UNICEF have taken some initiatives against child sexual abuse such as public awareness raising by posters, meetings etc.

The issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation has however not been dealt with systematically by international and local organisations. Surveys have been carried out on sexual exploitation of women by a few Ngos and INgOs, but these surveys did not focus on children. There is an emerging interest and recognition of the need to protect children from child abuse and exploitation. The Department of Social Welfare has worked collaboratively with INgOs on child protection issues. This is exemplified by the community based child protection systems carried out by Save the Children in Myanmar, the child protection programmes carried out by World Vision etc

### 6.1. Government legislation

The Penal Code prohibits international trafficking or importation of a girl from a foreign country to engage in illicit intercourse.

The suppression of Prostitution Act of 1949 defines a brothel as “any house, building, room, any kind of vehicle/vessel/aircraft or place habitually used for the purpose of prostitution or used with reference to any kind of business for the purpose of prostitution.

The code also prohibits buying or selling a minor for the purpose of “prostitution or illicit intercourse with any person or for any unlawful and immoral purpose”. The legal age of consent for sexual relations is 18 years. Punishment for the offences may be up to 10 years of imprisonment.

The Child Law prohibits “employing or permitting a child to perform work which is hazardous to the life of the child or which may cause disease to the child or which is harmful to the child’s moral character. Punishment is imprisonment for up to 6 months and a fine.

The child law imposes punishment of imprisonment for up to 2 years, a fine or both on any person “neglecting knowingly that a girl under his guardianship who has not attained the age of 16 is earning a livelihood by prostitution” and permitting a child under his guardianship to live together or to consort with a person who earns a livelihood by prostitution”. The same punishment applies to anyone who uses a child in pornographic cinema, video, television or photography.

(Source: The Protection project: Myanmar, John Hopkins University)

### 6.2. Travelling sex offenders in Burma

There are a few travelling sex offenders who target Burma as a destination of choice in relation to the sexual exploitation of children. According to the Police in Burma there were

eight cases involving the sexual exploitation of children by foreign nationals, who were reported in 2006<sup>159</sup>. At least one local, private journal has reported about the issue recently, although this article did not mention nationalities of the alleged offenders<sup>160</sup>.

A young postcard seller in Rangoon was befriended by a German traveller, Mr Michael Pastoor. Apparently this child had been adopted by the offender with the agreement of his father. The offender paid for the child to attend English language classes. This child often visited the offender in his room where he was repeatedly sexually abused. It is reported that the child accompanied the offender on trips to both Thailand and Germany. The offender was reported to have visited Burma on fifteen separate occasions. During these visits it is alleged that he also abused other children with whom he came into contact through the original child. (Source: Edited by Child Wise Tourism: 2007 Child sex tourism Review)

### 6.3. How do travelling sex offenders make contact with children?

#### The contact with the girls

It appears that the sexual exploitation of girls takes place on the streets, in brothels, at night clubs and in massage parlours<sup>161</sup>.

In an upmarket night club the investigator had her bag searched for cameras. Inside the club, around 15 girls out of an estimated 60 were very young. One girl who we were told was 12 years old, had not yet developed breasts. The audience was mainly elderly males from Japan, Korea and other Asian countries. They were openly groping the girls. (Observation by investigative team)

Modelling shows are a speciality of Burma and often take place in ordinary restaurants. The models are not employed by the bar owners, but rather travel around from bar to bar each night to do these cat walk modelling shows, while the audience is encouraged to buy garlands for the girls they like the most. The modelling shows are mixed with songs and dancing by women, and sometimes men, whom may or may not be for sale. It was found, at least at the bars visited, that the youngest girls were to be found amongst the permanent staff members.

Rangoon has many different bars and clubs. The entrance fee is generally around 3-4000 kyats (3.40 dollars). One location the investigation team visited is a shopping mall during the day, but at night several bars and massage parlours open in the fairly run-down complex. In one bar visited by the investigator, a couple of girls who appeared to be under the age of 14 years were working there, The assessment of the age is based on the physical appearance and teenage behaviour of the girls in question, we were unable to ascertain their chronological age. The clientele were mainly men from the local community.

### The contact with the boys

In 2005 Two boys aged 14 and 15 have told how they were contacted by a tourist on the street. They were taken to the man's hotel and sent came back to the street the next morning. He took them to the hotel, abused them and released them again the next morning where he gave them what they considered to be a large amount of money. The man was assisted by a third party exploiter, The third party exploiter took the boys to a shop where he bought snacks for them, and the man added to the grooming process by buying sandals for the boys. When it was repeated with another boy a few days later, the man, who turned out to be German, was arrested and when then trial came to court he was given a custodial sentence of two years and four months. The man had been to Burma three times in the past and was well connected with taxi drivers and hotel staff, who acted as point of contact. (Source: personal communication)

Areas where young men and boys can be contacted for sexual exploitation can be found on the internet or by word of mouth. Travelling sex offenders usually get in contact with boys at a well known bridge in Rangoon, The investigator were told that boys are picked up from the bridge between 19:00 and 21:00. Sometimes they use a third party exploiter but not always. The travelling sex offenders often bring the boys to a hotel<sup>162</sup>

The investigative team visited the bridge and this is what they observed.

In the early evening boys of all ages are seen hanging around in the darkness on the bridge. There are no women or girls at all, and the concrete construction is definitely not a tourist attract. But within five minutes the first Westemer turns up. He appeared to be around 60 years of age with white hair. He walks the bridge from one end to the other and leaves the way he came after throwing a brief look at the investigator. (Observation by the investigative team)

Some girls also work in beauty parlours where they expect to polish nails and wax legs. Some of them might be transferred to give massages. The third step in this grooming

process is the provision of sex. A girl who speaks a bit of English is prone to be taken out by foreigners.

#### **6.4. Danish travelling sex offenders in Burma**

Three men with Danish passports were arrested for sexual exploitation of children in Rangoon between June and October 2006, according to *2006 Annual Report* by the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Myanmar Police Force. The three Danes were released and left Burma without being charged with any offence but information has been passed onto the Danish National Police. The three men are now placed on Green Notice by Interpol. The Green Notice is to provide warnings and criminal intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.<sup>163</sup>

It is difficult to establish the nationality of many foreign offenders, since the vast majority of sexually exploited children do not know the difference between different nationalities<sup>164</sup>. This makes it difficult to assess the actual numbers of Danes who travel to Burma to sexually exploit children.

## 7. General Observations and Findings in Cambodia, Burma and Thailand

Poverty often correlates with illiteracy, limited employment opportunities, and bleak financial circumstances for families. Children in these families become easy targets for procurement agents in search of young children. They are lured away from broken homes by "recruiters" who promise them jobs in a city and then force the children into prostitution. Some poor families themselves prostitute their children or sell their children into the sex trade to obtain desperately needed money <sup>165</sup>

Although it would appear that the three countries investigated are at different levels in terms of economic, social and political development, the officials and Ngo's interviewed in each country did stipulate that the uncertainty about the future was problematic in terms of combating sexual abuse and exploitation. Poverty, trafficking and a general lack of opportunity were given as the main reasons for the supply of children and adolescents who are coerced or forced into the sexual exploitation and abuse.

Poorly funded and administered education systems were also cited as being a reason why children can end up being coerced into sexual exploitation. Corporal punishment is still used in many schools by teachers. This is seen as problematic in terms of child protection and children's rights by many of the people interviewed. <sup>166</sup> The education system in Burma was a cause for concern when we interviewed informants.

The education sector in Burma has been seriously neglected by the state, with education funding amounting to only 1.3% of the GDP. There is a serious shortage of schools, trained teachers, and educational supplies, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas; and corruption has become rife among teachers. While education standards have declined, school costs have risen sharply, causing a high drop-out rate. Owing to prevalent gender attitudes, sons' education is prioritized over daughters', and girls commonly leave school to help support their families, or do part-time jobs while studying. <sup>167</sup>

Education can be a key to protecting children from all forms of abuse, under the condition that child protection mechanisms are in place within the education system, and that the individual schools are following these <sup>168</sup>.

Domestic situations for many children are dominated by poverty, alcohol abuse, broken relationships, physical abuse and witnessing domestic violence. These forms of abuse and neglect were witnessed in all three countries. This neglect and abuse exacerbate their vulnerable situation and encourage children to search for better lives elsewhere. Some run away, others travel with family members or acquaintances to other parts of the country or

cross borders to other countries searching for opportunities to improve their lives. Some children either migrate or are trafficked to the big cities and tourist areas where they are vulnerable to being coerced into sexual exploitation.

“In Phuket there are lots of street children. They do have parents, but they may not want to be with them. Maybe there is a step-father they do not like. Many children leave home to escape abusive situations,” (Source: A senior officer at the Temporary shelter for children and families in Phuket, Thailand.)

According to several Ngo's we talked to many children and adolescents are victims of trafficking and others are economic migrants. Both groups are vulnerable to sexual exploitation because of the vulnerable situation they find themselves in. Trafficked children and women are usually transported directly to the places where sexual exploitation takes place. Migrants find themselves in an extremely vulnerable position as they may be afraid of being repatriated if they inform local authorities or child protection agencies.

### 7.1. Living in Poverty and the Links to Sexual Exploitation

A statement often heard during the field investigation from women and children who have been sexually exploited was, “*selling sex is not as bad as being hungry.*” Dr. Julia O'Connell Davidson (2005) stated that the reality for some women and children gives a stark reminder of the lack of informed choice in entering the sex industry. It literally is a matter of survival as the quote above so clearly suggests.

Many adolescent girls and boys appear to support their families by being sexually exploited to earn money to buy food and essential provisions. Several children interviewed in Cambodia stated that they gave up their own childhood to help maintain education and health care for their siblings.

“I left home when I was 13 years old because I had a fight with my mother when she told me to stop studying. I ended up in Tuol Kork red light area. I went without thinking. I went because I was angry. I met foreigners there. Most of them spoke English so I think they were British. It was very bad, but I had no choice. (Source: L, 17 years)

In developing countries where many families have no savings or access to bank loans, children are once again made vulnerable to sexual exploitation because of the effects of economic pressures beyond their control.

In Burma, the poverty has been compounded by years of military rule and sanctions by the international community that have led to many people migrating or being trafficked across the border into Thailand and China<sup>169</sup>.

#### **Girl, 6, embodies Cambodia's sex industry**

At an age when most children might be preparing for their first day of school, Srey, 6, already has undergone trauma that is almost unspeakable.

She was sold to a brothel by her parents when she was 5. It is not known how much her family got for Srey, but other girls talk of being sold for \$100; one was sold for \$10.

Before she was rescued, Srey endured months of abuse at the hands of pimps and sex tourists. (Source: CNN 26 January 2007)

It has been suggested that some families are pressured into allowing their children to enter the sex industry by traffickers. We should not generalise on this contentious issue and we must be careful not to label parents who are exploited by unscrupulous traffickers. There is a need further investigation that accurately assesses what is happening to these families and what grooming processes they are subjected by criminal individuals and gangs.

## **7.2. Collaboration between the Danish Government and Law enforcement agencies in the 3 countries**

A staff member in the Cambodian organisation M'Lop Tapang stated that child sex offenders travel to other parts of the region when they feel that law enforcement agencies and Ngo's begin to make their abusive activities in Cambodia more complicated.

In terms of the information collected from interviews in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma, it became clear that many interviewees were critical of the Danish authorities for not informing the destination countries about the identity of men who have been convicted of sexual offences against children in Denmark. The reason given by the Danish National Police for this is that they have to protect the convicted person from further stigma and continued indirect punishment after serving his term in prison. As a basic human right it should be respected that when a person has served their sentence, they should not be punished a second time on return to society.

Research suggests that some convicted sex offenders, especially those assessed as being of high risk, will sexually abuse children again<sup>170</sup>. Some of these offenders will travel abroad to sexually exploit children.

There are measures put in place to protect Danish children against convicted sex offenders. Danish schools and child care organisations are able to access criminal record checks with the police before a person can be employed to work with children. Yet, foreign governments have no way of protecting their children from potential abusers by prohibiting or monitoring Danish sex offenders entering their countries.

Some countries have taken steps to legislate on this sensitive matter. The United Kingdom, Australia and other countries do share information with foreign governments about high risk sex offenders travelling abroad and some have enacted legislation to monitor those who are convicted of sexual offences against children. This involves proactively using sex offender registers<sup>171</sup> that exist in these countries to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Child abuse should not be allowed to travel and we must take steps to prevent high risk offenders from being able to avoid child protection measure in their own country by travelling abroad. In the United Kingdom convicted sex offenders are required to inform the police if they are travelling out of the country for more than 3 days. If they fail to do this they may be prosecuted.

“We cannot stop the ‘paedophiles’ from doing it, as it is in their nature. But we may make it more difficult for these men and thereby decrease the problem.” (Source: A senior official from the Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC))

## 8. Recommendations

This report has used Finkelhor's (1984) four pre-conditions model to show how community based child protection mechanisms can be used proactively to combat child sexual exploitation, by using a holistic and sociological based public health approach. Save the Children Denmark have modified the Finkelhor model to include a targeted response to the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism in both Denmark (as a sending country) and the three countries studied (as destination countries). This comprehensive child protection model is used as a basis for our overall recommendations to improve the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism: The report will inform the Save the Children Denmark child protection projects now being implemented in Burma, Cambodia and Thailand:

The Four Preconditions to sexual abuse and exploitation taking involve:

1. The potential offender has to have some motivation to sexually abuse a child
2. The potential offender has to overcome internal inhibitions against acting on the motivation
3. The potential offender has to overcome external impediments to committing sexual abuse and exploitation
4. The potential offender has to overcome the child's possible resistance to the abuse

We would suggest that these four pre conditions, identified by Finkelhor, can be used by governmental child protection agencies, the travel industry, Ngo's and local communities as a means of preventing potential offenders gaining access to children. By strengthening these barriers that the potential offender had to overcome we are creating opportunities to prevent the sexual exploitation of children from taking place. This involves sending and destination countries working together to protect children with each country implementing national action plans to combat the sexual abuse and exploitation.

The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action (1996) from the First World Congress requires state parties to develop a national plan of action against the commercial sexual exploitation of children..

### **Danish National Action Plan to combat sexual abuse and exploitation**

There is an urgent need to revise the Danish National Action Plan on combating child sexual abuse and exploitation. The current Danish National Action Plan was produced in 2003 and this document is now outdated. The Danish National Plan of Action for preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation should include a strategy for combating the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. It should also be the basis for the implementation of a comprehensive Sex Offender Management System, which will be in

line the recommendations from the Council of Europe Convention on protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Save the Children suggests that the new national action plan should include the following points which are described in relation to the four pre conditions model described above:

### **Targeting the motivation of potential abusers**

Targeting the motivation of potential abusers involves those individuals who have a sexual interest in children so they can be offered counselling and support to challenge their sexual fantasies and thoughts about children. This early form of intervention has the effect of reducing the level of risk to children from some potential abusers and has been successfully adopted in the USA, UK, Ireland and Australia by the introduction of the effective Stop it Now! public health approach campaigns<sup>172</sup>. This public health approach to preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation should be introduced by other countries.

In Denmark there is a telephone help line service operated by the sexology department at Copenhagen University Hospital where members of the public can ring anonymously regarding concerns about their sexual thoughts and fantasies about children. This service requires more funding to be effective and would benefit from an awareness campaign similar to the Stop it Now approach developed in the countries named above.

This approach alone will not prevent all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. Some potential abusers will not respond to this approach which is why this all encompassing model is seen as being effective. We now move on the next barrier in this child protection model.

### **Targeting the internal inhibitors of the potential perpetrator**

The internal inhibitors of the potential perpetrator can be strengthened through awareness raising campaigns that make the potential abuser think about the consequences of their actions. This is an important child protection message in terms of preventing sexual exploitation by those individuals who feel that by travelling abroad they are able to take advantage of vulnerable children in socially and economic disadvantaged communities. (please refer to situational travelling sex offenders which is described below). Sexual offenders will use this form of cognitive distortion to overcome their internal inhibitors that would normally stop them from sexually exploiting a child. The methods below are an example of attempts to strengthen the internal inhibitors of potential offenders:

- a) You can scare them by talking about punishments and laws that exist
- b) You can threaten them by presenting cases that have been criminally prosecuted
- c) You can educate them about the respect they owe to different people and about the unacceptable realities of this exploitation so to dismantle the justification they might use for their acts<sup>173</sup>.

Save the Children Denmark recommends that public awareness campaigns, highlight relevant legislation as a deterrent, and make potential abusers aware that all children have the same right to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation.

### **Building external resistance and protection**

Building external resistance and protection is achieved by informing individuals and the community about child sexual abuse and exploitation so that the local population are empowered to act as protective adults and barriers for children. Information on the modus operandi of travelling sex offenders and the grooming processes used need to be explained to professionals and local communities groups. This empowered community can also report cases of sexual exploitation they witness or experience to the local authorities. In areas where formal child protection mechanisms are weak or non-existent it is important that community based child protection systems are mobilised and put into place to protect children. (Save the Children Alliance 2008)

- Designate a government point of contact to coordinate efforts with non-governmental, intergovernmental and travel/tourism organizations.
- The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse is now open for ratification and Save the Children Denmark recommends that the Danish government ratify this international convention as soon as possible.<sup>174</sup>
- Enforce extraterritorial laws criminalizing Travelling sex offenders, and make appropriate resources available for law enforcement agencies to investigate cases involving Danish Nationals who sexually abuse and exploit children abroad; this should include a child rights perspective in regard to interviewing children;
- Ensure that training in travel and tourism industry includes child protection in their curriculum
- All journalists who are investigating issues related to children's rights and child protection should follow the International Federation of Journalists ethical guidelines on how to report on these issues

The general public in Denmark who travel abroad can also be part of building external resistance to the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. It is important that those who travel abroad:

- Stay informed and support the efforts of authorities and the tourism industry to prevent sexual exploitation of children;
- Contact the Danish Police Hotline or Save the Children Hotline if they suspect children are being sexually exploited in tourism or other destinations
- Support the efforts of Ngos and the travel industry who are working to protect children from sexual exploitation.

Governmental, non-governmental and the private sector have a social responsibility to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Travel, tourism, and hospitality

companies should sign the *Code of Conduct to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*, which requires them to implement the following measures:

- Establish a corporate ethical policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children
- Place clauses in contracts with suppliers stating a common repudiation of sexual exploitation of children
- Report annually on their progress
- Train tourism personnel
- Provide information to travellers
- Provide information to local "key persons" at travel destinations
- Inform their guests and employees about the Danish hotline

The monitoring process for Danish tour operators who have signed the *Code of Conduct to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* should be further strengthened and include sanctions for the travel companies that do not adhere to this process.

All private and governmental organisations should include child protection issues within a code of conduct for their employees who are travelling abroad.

### **In Thailand, Cambodia and Burma**

In Thailand, Cambodia and Burma community based child protection mechanisms should be further strengthened.

Child protection systems will vary according to context needs, resources and other factors, since the study did not go into detail on this subject so we can only point to some common components that should be considered, when strengthening the child protection mechanisms<sup>175</sup>:

- The legal framework and policy development process based on the rights of the child should be strengthened
- Political will and commitment to child protection should be promoted
- Advocacy for Budget allocations to and sustainable investment in child protection services and groups
- Coordination, multi-disciplinary working and accountability – e.g. coordination between administrative levels and sectors
- High-quality services specifically designed for children who have experienced sexual exploitative situations, families and care-givers – e.g. preventive, psychosocial, medical, legal and other services.
- Skilled workforce and human resources e.g. screening, qualifications training, support and assessment.
- Promotion of non-violent attitudes and values – e.g. awareness-raising campaigns, workshops and media
- Knowledge and data – e.g. statistics on incidence of key protection issues.

- Independent monitoring through a children's ombudsperson
- Partnership between government, civil society and the travel and tourism sector to promote the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

### **Empowering children**

The active involvement of children in protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence should be a part of a comprehensive child protection system. Children should be empowered to take part in a process that demands accountability from adult duty-bearers for the fulfilment of children's rights to protection – e.g. consultation and access to key civil rights such as information, expression, association and decision-making. However it is extremely important to underline that the responsibility for protecting children lies with the responsible adults in the local communities.– however, children are not responsible for their own protection, and they must not be blamed for any exploitative situations they may find themselves in.

It is also important to deal with root causes for the exploitation. This includes improving the livelihood options for children at risk of being sexually exploited. Programmes should be implemented to ensure that education leads to employment therefore vocational training and skill training should be part of the education, micro credit schemes might allow the children to start as micro entrepreneurs etc.

### **Support for children after sexual exploitation has been disclosed**

There has to be mechanisms put in place that can assist sexually exploited children in coming to terms with their exploitation. This includes helping children exit sexually exploitative situations. . Appropriate shelter, counselling, medical, and legal assistance should be provided to these children as part of a comprehensive child protection and therapeutic approach. It is imperative that minimum care standards are followed and that where ever possible community based solutions are provided.

Communities should provide integration assistance as appropriate, this should include support to their education and facilitation of alternative livelihoods for children who have been sexually exploited and those at risk of being sexually exploited. Young people should be offered appropriate, work experience and training within the travel and tourism sector from a corporate social responsibility perspective. The tourism industry should build on the schemes already established in this sector by some of the large hotel chains e.g ACCOR.  
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### **Research Issues**

More research needs to be undertaken on the long-term social, physical, psychological and emotional consequences of children who have been sexually exploited in all its forms and especially in relation to travel and tourism. This research should be undertaken in the countries mentioned in the report and the results used to improve child protection

systems. This research is urgently required as there appears to be very few longitudinal studies on the impact of sexual exploitation.

More research is needed to identify the practices and gaps/challenges in existing care services for sexually exploited children (both boys and girls).

More research needs to be undertaken to understand the complex issue of organised crime and how this relates to the sexual exploitation of children by third part exploiters and their connections with travelling sex offenders.

More research is also needed on travelling sex offenders in relation to their motivation, modus operandi and the clinical issues in relation to management and treatment of sex offenders who travel abroad to sexually exploit children.

The effect of sex offender management systems in relation to the monitoring of convicted sex offenders in some sending countries needs to be assessed and the results used to improve the exchange of information between sending and destination countries.

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<sup>13</sup> *Save the Children (2003): Save the Children's Policy on Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.*

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<sup>17</sup> *Article 34 in the UN Convention on the rights of the child states:*

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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.

<sup>18</sup> *ibid*

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.aic.gov.au/media/2000/20000730.html> and journalistic investigations by the media

<sup>20</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/891319.stm> a . [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/144169.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/144169.stm) b  
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<sup>34</sup> World Vision at the website <http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/learn/globalissues-childprotection-sexexploit>; UNICEF: *Children on the EDGE*

<sup>35</sup> O'Grady (1992) here in Brung Marianna (2002) *Abolishing Child Sex Tourism: Australia's Contribution*

<sup>36</sup> Anglican General Synod (1993) here in Brung Marianna (2002) *Abolishing Child Sex Tourism: Australia's Contribution*

<sup>37</sup> World Vision at the website <http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/learn/globalissues-childprotection-sexexploit>; UNICEF: *Children on the EDGE*

<sup>38</sup> ECPAT International (2001) *Questions & Answers about the Commercial sexual Exploitation of Children*

<sup>39</sup> ECPAT International (2001) *Questions & Answers about the Commercial sexual Exploitation of Children.*

<sup>40</sup> ECPAT International (2008a) *Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism*

<sup>41</sup> *ibid*

<sup>42</sup> *ibid*

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A. Over a period of at least 6 months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger);

B. The person has acted on these sexual urges, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty;

C. The person is at least age 16 years and at least 5 years older than the child or children in Criterion A.

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- <sup>49</sup> *Beddoe, Christine: The end of the line for child exploitation – Safeguarding the most vulnerable children*
- <sup>50</sup> *Interpol 2006 and WOW Philippines: Child-sex tourists destroy childhood. You can stop them, [http://www.wowphilippines.com.ph/Special/stop\\_childsx.asp](http://www.wowphilippines.com.ph/Special/stop_childsx.asp)*
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- <sup>52</sup> *Niron N. R. Viriya, Y & Gray,L (2001) Childrens Work , Adults Play Child Sex Tourism – The Proble in Cambodia, World Vision*
- <sup>53</sup> *ECPAT International (2008a) Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism*
- <sup>54</sup> *Sánchez - Taylor, J (2001) Dollars Are a Girl's Best Friend? Female 'Tourists' Sexual Behaviour in the Caribbean*
- <sup>55</sup> *ECPAT International (2001): Questions and Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.*
- <sup>56</sup> *ibid*
- <sup>57</sup> *ECPAT (2008a) Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism, and UNICEF: Children on the edge.*
- <sup>58</sup> *ibid.*
- <sup>59</sup> *see [www.humantrafficking.org](http://www.humantrafficking.org) and ECPAT (2008a) Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism*
- <sup>60</sup> *Thomas Maesele (2007): Towards European Policy concerning Child Sex-tourism: Reality or Rhetoric?*
- <sup>61</sup> *ECPAT (2008) Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism,*
- <sup>62</sup> *Pimonsaengsuriya, Kritsana (2008): Understanding the linkages between child sex tourism and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children in East Asia and the Pacific. ECPAT International*
- <sup>63</sup> *ECPAT (2008) Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism*
- <sup>64</sup> *ibid*
- <sup>65</sup> *ibid*
- <sup>66</sup> *<http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/>*
- <sup>67</sup> *ECPAT International (2008a): Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism*
- <sup>68</sup> *[http://www.unwto.org/protect\\_children/index.php?op=0](http://www.unwto.org/protect_children/index.php?op=0)*
- <sup>69</sup> *[www.unwto.org](http://www.unwto.org)*

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<sup>70</sup> [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)

<sup>71</sup> *The congresses have been held in Stockholm 1996, Yokohama 2001 and Rio de Janeiro 2008*

<sup>72</sup> *World Travel & Tourism Council (2008) The 2008 Travel & Tourism Economic Research Thailand.*

<sup>73</sup> *Ezine articles: Pattaya, Thailand - A Good Family Vacation Destination?*

<sup>74</sup> *Child Wise (2007): 2007 ASEAN Child sex Tourism Review.*

<sup>75</sup> *In Thailand, NGOs have estimated that up to a third of prostitutes are children under 18 .( Source Burke, Alicia and Stefania Ducci: Desk review Trafficking in Minors for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Thailand.)*

<sup>76</sup> *O'Connell Davidson , J. (2005) and ECPAT International (2008a) Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism.*

*Sharron, Derek (2006), My name Lon, You like me?*

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/thailand>,

*Intahep, Lampai: Thailand remains centre for human trafficking, 14 december 2008*  
[http://www.bangkokpost.com/14/208\\_News/14Dec2008\\_news08.php](http://www.bangkokpost.com/14/208_News/14Dec2008_news08.php)

<sup>78</sup> *Sharron, Derek (2006), My name Lon, You like me?*

<sup>79</sup> *Pimmonsangsurija, Kritsana (2008) Understanding the linkages an other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children in East Asia and the Pacific, ECPAT*

<sup>80</sup> [www.sikkerchat.dk](http://www.sikkerchat.dk)

<sup>81</sup> *The Grooming Process is the strategy used by sexual abusers to manipulate the child, and potentially protective adults, so the abuse can take place in a situation where the abuser has total control over the victim. It is a process where the abuser gradually overcomes the child's resistance through a sequence of psychologically manipulative acts. It is also used to silence the child after the abuse has taken place. (Source: Red Barnet: Grooming – muliggørelse af et overgreb)*

<sup>82</sup> *This is observed by several police sources in Interpol, Danish and Dutch National Police., ECPAT UK Newsletter august 2005*

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid and ECPAT UK (2005) Newsletter Summer 2005.*

<sup>84</sup> *Save the Children Position paper (2006)*

<sup>85</sup> *US Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. Child sex Tourism*  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/sextour.html>

<sup>86</sup> *O'Connel-Davidson J (2005)*

<sup>87</sup> *Napapan Sanganet personal communication.*

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<sup>88</sup> *Sompoch Nipakanont, Medical Director International Medical Center and Assistant Hospital Director, Bangkok Hospital, Phuket*

<sup>89</sup> *Pattaya is one place where Pattaya and Thailand is advertised as a center for sexual exploitation*  
<http://www.pattayatourist.com/>

<http://www.pattaya-news.com/pattaya-sin-city/>

<sup>90</sup> *This is also observed in Pattaya Today 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 night March:*

<sup>91</sup> *ECPAT UK (undated): Child sex tourism in Thailand.*

<sup>92</sup> *SWING*

<sup>93</sup> [http://www.pattayacitynews.net/news\\_03\\_03\\_48\\_2.htm](http://www.pattayacitynews.net/news_03_03_48_2.htm)

<sup>94</sup> *ECPAT UK (2006) Connect to protect.*

<sup>95</sup> *ECPAT UK (2006) Newsletter connect to protect winter 2006*  
[http://www.ecpat.org.uk/downloads/Connect\\_to\\_Protect\\_Winter\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org.uk/downloads/Connect_to_Protect_Winter_2006.pdf)

<sup>96</sup> *Child Abuse Review. Volume 11 Issue 3, Pages 153 – 167 Published Online: 20 Jun 2002 Copyright © 2008 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.*

<sup>97</sup> *Dahlin, Ulrik Dem som aldrig ser lys. <http://www.information.dk/145048>*

<sup>98</sup> *On August 15, 2008, Christopher Neil was sentenced to 39 months in a Thai prison for posting pornographic photos on the Internet and for molesting and abducting a 14-year-old boy. The original sentence was for six years and six months, but it was reduced by the judge because of Neil's confession. He is scheduled for another trial in October of for molesting the boy's nine-year-old brother. Neil must also pay the boy's family \$1,780 as compensation for the crime [http://www.mahalo.com/Christopher\\_Paul\\_Neil](http://www.mahalo.com/Christopher_Paul_Neil)*

<sup>99</sup> *ECPAT UK (2006) Newsletter connect to protect winter*

<sup>100</sup> *Søgård Jan (2004) Bandidos udvider til Fjernøsten, BT 10 February 2004)*

<http://www.bt.dk/article/20040210/krimi/102100263/>

<sup>101</sup> *Pattaya Daily News (2006) : Mafia Gang "Bandidos" Busted!, 20th July 2006;*

<sup>102</sup> *Personal Communication with ECPAT International*

<sup>103</sup> *United Nations Thailand (2008) <http://www.un.or.th/thailand/development.html>*

<sup>104</sup> *The Child Wise Tourism program operates primarily in the seven main destination countries for travelling child-sex offenders in ASEAN: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Burma, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The program also has close links with the three remaining ASEAN nations, Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore, who have been identified as potential sending countries for offenders. Child Wise Tourism has also nurtured a*

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*strong, cooperative relationship with the ASEAN Secretariat which has increasingly demonstrated a keen interest in acting as a regional advocate for enhanced efforts to address the issue of child-sex tourism amongst member countries.*

<sup>105</sup> *www.thecode.org*

<sup>106</sup> *http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/be-a-responsible-tourist/child-sex-tourism*

<sup>107</sup> *A senior official at DSI*

<sup>108</sup> *http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/sextour.html*

<sup>109</sup> *A senior official at DSI*

<sup>110</sup> *High ranking officer at the Royal Thai Police, and other government representatives interviewed in Thailand*

<sup>111</sup> *http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/54/075.html*

<sup>112</sup> *A high ranking officer at the Children, Juveniles and Women Division of the Royal Thai Police*

<sup>113</sup> *http://www.aplecambodia.org/downloads/Documents%20for%20library%20page/Grooming%20abroad%20-%20The%20Cambodian%20context.pdf*

<sup>114</sup> *World Travel & Tourism Council (2008) The 2008 Travel & Tourism Economic Research Cambodia.*

<sup>115</sup> *Eleanor Brown (2007) The Ties that Bind. Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia*

<sup>116</sup> *ECPAT International database (2009)*

<sup>117</sup> *A senior official at, ECPAT-Cambodia*

<sup>118</sup> *ILO: Promoting child-safe tourism in Cambodia*

<sup>119</sup> *Niron N. R. Viriya, Y & Gray,L (2001) Childrens Work , Adults Play - Child Sex Tourism – The Problem in Cambodia, World Vision*

<sup>120</sup> *Save the Children Norway in Cambodia (2008): Project Document for Village Safety Net Project.*

<sup>121</sup> *http://www.aplecambodia.org/downloads/Documents%20for%20library%20page/Grooming%20abroad%20-%20The%20Cambodian%20context.pdf*

<sup>122</sup> *Taipai Times: US "Pedophile" arrested for rape and torture in Cambodia June 21, 2006.*

<sup>123</sup> *Asia-Pacific News June 4 2008: US praises Cambodia's crackdown on prostitution*

*Sopheng Cheang (2008): Cambodian prostitutes protest police crackdown, allege physical and sexual abuse*

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<sup>124</sup> *Personal communication with Virginia Young, ChildSafe Network Project Advisor, Friends International*

<sup>125</sup> *Liam Chochran (2004) mentioned that a sex tourism researcher found that over half the girls sold to "virginity seekers" in Phnom Penh had a foreigner as their first client, and the overall condom use was as low as five per cent.*

<sup>126</sup> *Eleanor Brown (2005): The Ties that Bind: Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia*

<sup>127</sup> *A similar observation is described in Cat Barton : Pedophiles take refuge in provinces.*

<sup>128</sup> *This was also observed by a snior officer at Sarin organisation, by Raphael Renault (2006) and by Kathrine Keane (2006)*

<sup>129</sup> <http://www.aplecambodia.org/downloads/Documents%20for%20library%20page/Grooming%20abroad%20-%20The%20Cambodian%20context.pdf>

<sup>130</sup> *Save the Children Europe Group (200) Position paper regarding online images of sexual abuse and other Internet-related sexual exploitation of Children*

<sup>131</sup> *University of Rhode Island: Factbook on global Sexual Exploitation, Cambodia*  
<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/cambodia.htm>

<sup>132</sup> *A junior official from APLE (Action Pour les Enfants).*

<sup>133</sup> *A senior official form M'Lop Tapangs, and a senior official from Sarin organisation*

<sup>134</sup> *The China Post February 26, 2005 : Japan gives funds for drug rehabilitation in Cambodia?*

<sup>135</sup> *Coalition against trafficking in Women: The factbook on Global Sexual Exploitation*

<sup>136</sup> *NGO position Papers on Cambodia's development in 2006.*

<sup>137</sup> *Raphaël Renault (2006) Survey on street-based Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia, :Overview of 7 provinces, APLE*

<sup>138</sup> *according to A senior official from Chab Dai Coalition*

<sup>139</sup> *Ericson,, E Rönning, A. (2008): Sustainable Tourism Deveopment*

<sup>140</sup> *ibid*

<sup>141</sup> *according to a senior official from Chab Dai Coalition*

<sup>142</sup> *Moustgaard, Ulrikke (2008). Other organisations like Save the Children Norway are also establishing child protection systems in other parts of the country.*

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<sup>143</sup> International Justice Mission (2008) *Cambodia: 13-Year Sentence for Sexual Assault Perpetrator* 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008. <http://www.ijm.org/newsfromthefield/cambodia/13-yearsentenceforsexualassaultperpetrator>

<sup>144</sup> Raphaël Renault (2006) *Survey on street-based Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia, :Overview of 7 provinces, APLE*

<sup>145</sup> Niron N. R. Viriya, Y & Gray,L (2001) *Childrens Work , Adults Play Child Sex Tourism – The Proble in Cambodia, World Vision*

<sup>146</sup> <sup>146</sup> Renault (2006) *Survey on street-based Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia, :Overview of 7 provinces, APLE*

<sup>147</sup> Niron N. R. Viriya, Y & Gray,L (2001) *Childrens Work , Adults Play Child Sex Tourism – The Proble in Cambodia, World Vision*

<sup>148</sup> Ericson, E. & Rönning, A. (2008) *Sustainable tourism development.*

<sup>149</sup> *International Crisis Group (2008) Burma/Myanmar After Nargis: Time to Normalise Aid Relations*

<sup>150</sup> *Official Journal of the European Union (2008) Council Common position 2008/349CFSP of 29 April 2008 and*

*Official Journal of the European Union (2006) Council Common position 2006/318/CFSP of 27 April 2007*

<sup>151</sup> *Politiken (2009): Sanktioner virker ikke* <http://www.i.pol.dk/debat/kroniker/article566673.ece>,

<sup>152</sup> *International Crisis Group (2008) Burma/Myanmar After Nargis: Time to Normalise Aid Relations*

<sup>153</sup> *PONJA Report*

<sup>154</sup> [www.asien.um.dk](http://www.asien.um.dk)

<sup>155</sup> *World Travel & Tourism Council (2008) The 2008 Travel & Tourism Economic Research, Burma.*

<sup>156</sup> [www.humantrafficking.org](http://www.humantrafficking.org) and *US Department of Justice: Child exploitation and Obscenity Section, Child sex tourism* <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/sextour.html>

<sup>157</sup> *Confidential sources*

<sup>158</sup> *According to the Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Brigadier General Aye Myint Kyu in Myanmar Times 8 March 2004*

<sup>159</sup> *Myanmar Police Force Anti-Trafficking Unit's 2006 Annual Report*

<sup>160</sup> *According to Confidential sources*

<sup>161</sup> *Confidential Sources*

<sup>162</sup> *Confidential Sources*

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<sup>163</sup> <http://www.interpol.int/public/Notices/default.asp>

<sup>164</sup> Confidential sources

<sup>165</sup> <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/sextour.html>

<sup>166</sup> According to Ulf Mikaelsson, who runs a guesthouse in Phuket and has been living in Thailand for the better part of his adult life, "the Thai schools system is failing many children – "Thailand is losing entire generations due to that." Ulf Mikaelsson's finding is underpinned by Surang Janyam, Director of the Thai organisation SVVING: "Boys come together to Bangkok in big groups from the North East. They have no education, and they want to escape poverty and support their families."

<sup>167</sup> [www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/Women\\_Burma42.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/Women_Burma42.pdf)

<sup>168</sup> Save the Children

<sup>169</sup> [www.humantrafficking.org](http://www.humantrafficking.org)

<sup>170</sup> ECPAT International (2008a) *Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism*

<sup>171</sup> *Child Abuse Review Volume 2 Issue 4, Pages 263 – 270 Published Online: 13 Feb 2006 Copyright © 2008 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.*

<sup>172</sup> [www.stopitnow.org](http://www.stopitnow.org) and [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)

<sup>173</sup> ECPAT International (2008a) *Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism*

<sup>174</sup> [http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal\\_affairs/legal\\_co-operation/fight\\_against\\_sexual\\_exploitation\\_of\\_children/](http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/fight_against_sexual_exploitation_of_children/)

<sup>175</sup> These components are based on Save the Children (2008) *A common Responsibility. The role of community based child protection groups in protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation.*

<sup>176</sup> <http://www.accorservices.hu/EN/Rolunk/Pages/Tarsadalmiszerepvallalas.aspx>

