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Welcome to the ECPAT news bulletin



11 February 2011

In Focus

Vacancy Announcement Deputy Director for Programmes, ECPAT International The Vacancy Announcement for the ECPAT International Deputy Director for Programmes position has now been made public. You can find the full Job Description on our website [here](#).
Preliminary Joint NGO Submission to the Open-ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide a communications procedure

The drafting of an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to provide a communications procedure has continued to advance with a special Working Group that has been appointed by the Human Rights Council, for this purpose.

Global advocacy to ensure that the Convention does not remain as the only international human rights treaty without a mandatory reporting procedure has successfully led to the initiation process for the drafting of a new Optional Protocol to the CRC and the work of the Working Group is at a crucial juncture. Child rights advocates believe the new OP should serve to encourage States to develop appropriate remedies for breaches of children's rights at national level, and provide an external mechanism for children and their representatives to appeal to when national remedies do not exist or are ineffective.

History of child rights advocacy is in the making and we urge all Network members to follow these developments. Child rights organizations, including ECPAT, continue to call on States to use this opportunity to demonstrate full commitment to protection of the rights of children ([download document here](#)).

State Report of the Republic of Mexico on the implementation of the Optional Protocol

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has received and examined the initial State Report of the Republic of Mexico on the implementation of the Optional Protocol. ECPAT Mexico, with the support of ECPAT International, has followed closely on this process. On 31 January ECPAT Mexico participated in the 56th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. ECPAT Mexico sent out a press release in Spanish ([download here](#)).

Two Peer Supporters of ECPAT Global Youth Partnership Programme for Thailand meet Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on Thai National Children's Day

Traditionally, the National Children's Day of Thailand falls on the second Saturday of January each year. The Prime Minister presents a motto to all children in the nation to honour them on this important day. Several events for children are organised by government agencies and private sectors throughout the country, including a special event at the Government House where children have a chance to meet the PM.

This year the motto from the PM read "Be Prudent, Thoughtful & Publicly Minded". In the event held at the Government House, three groups of children were selected to present good practices of child-led projects to the PM and the media. One of the selected three groups was two children from YMCA (Bangkok) Foundation Phayao branch, which is a long-term partner organization of ECPAT Foundation in advancing the agenda against CSEC in Northern provinces. The

In the news

Campaign Heroes from the Ukraine

Two volunteers from the NGO *School of Equal Opportunities* received special certificates and presents from ECPAT International for their hard work in collecting signatures for the "Stop violence and trafficking in children" petition.

The two ECPAT youth, Mr. Vyacheslav Grvshchenko [16 years old - LEFT] and Mr. Bogdan Kupchinsky [24 years old - RIGHT] went above and beyond in supporting our campaign, collecting 6,000 signatures each. In total, *School of Equal Opportunities* gathered 30,205 signatures in 11 cities across Ukraine – and they are expecting more. ECPAT asked what inspired them to get involved in the campaign.

Vyacheslav: I am studying in school N 187 in Kyiv, 10-A class. I'm the President of the children school authorities of this school (Child Council). Since 2008, I have been a volunteer of the *International School of Equal Opportunities* [ECPAT member]. At this organization I've learned about the issue of trafficking and action about signing petitions against child trafficking. I decided to support this project as I could not stand aside and be indifferent to this problem. Then I decided to involve other leaders of Kiev schools as it is a very important issue in the children rights protection.

Bogdan: I'm 24 years old and I'm the leader of the Zhitomir Child Non-governmental organization "We can do everything ourselves" and also the Zhitomir regional branch of *School of Equal Opportunities*. My personal motto is to give happiness to people and thus, I worked on the campaign petition in Zhitomir (where I am from) because I worry about children who already have become, or can become a commodity, and someone could exploit them for sexual commercial purposes. This is the small contribution I am able to do. In order to protect children, the whole world must stand up and put an end to slavery in the 21 century!
On behalf of ECPAT & The Body Shop: Congratulations and a sincere thank-you to both Vyacheslav & Bogdan for the impressive efforts!



ECPAT YPP Nepal Team Update

ECPAT YPP Youth in Nepal integrated the campaign into their 'Cross Border' micro project which focuses on raising awareness of child and youth trafficking from Nepal to India. From 12 – 15 January, a series of activities took place: recruiting villagers, setting up and performing a series of "Road Shows", and collecting signatures for the campaign petition – over 300 in just a brief period of time! Excellent work by the team!



ECPAT YPP Bangladesh Team Update

ECPAT Bangladesh YPP Team has already collected 2,000 signatures for the campaign petition. They have set themselves a target of at least 8,000 by March 2011. The youth team took the campaign petition to the Picnic Party arranged by the Slum Children Education programme of the ECPAT Affiliate group Aparajeyo-Bangladesh (AB) held on 30 December 2010. The team collected 400 signatures from the picnic. The second event was a Child Protection Fair & Child Drama Festival at Rabindrow Shorobar, Dhanmondi, Dhaka from 7 January to 9 January 2011. Approximately 650 children and adults from different organizations were present and the ECPAT Youth team collected 1500 signature from different levels of civil-society members, including Parliament Members, high-level Government Officials, INGO & NGO representatives, TV celebrities, media personnel, and children.



ECPAT Youth/YPP Petition Estimates & Ranking so far:

1. Ukraine – about 19,187 so far – congratulations!
2. Cambodia – 11, 153
3. Kyrgyzstan – about 10,000 signatures already!
4. Thailand – 8,403
5. Nepal – 6,772 as of 9 December and expecting more from partners
6. Togo – 6,037
7. Mexico – 2,440
8. Guatemala – 2,200
9. Bangladesh – already 2,000 signatures and just started in December!
10. Uganda – 1,663 from first total – expecting more!
11. Moldova – 1,420 so far
12. The Gambia – 150 [estimate; after launch event only.]
13. Vietnam – 116 [just started]
14. India – will report soon
15. Philippines – will report soon

Total estimate: 71,541 petition signatures! Excellent! Nearly 100,000!
Save the Children UK Global Meeting Exploitation and Abuse of Children in Infrastructure and

two children are YPP Peer Supporters and one of them (Sangla Santawong) is the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC) representative for the EAP region. The children presented the Peer Support programme in the YPP project, training for children at-risk in schools and communities, and radio programmes and mobile theatre performances to raise public awareness on CSEC in various ethnic communities.



International Meeting of Partners in Kenya

On 24-28 January 2011, ECPAT International (represented by the Regional Officer for EAP) was invited to participate in an International Meeting of Partners of International Child Support (ICS) in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was attended by over 60 representatives of ICS partner organisations, 'Together for Change' (T4C), based in Africa and Asia, as well as ICS representatives from Asia Regional Office and the Netherlands Head Office. The meeting focused on sharing information about parameters of the framework of the agreement of T4C with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; elaboration of the conceptual framework of the programme; and sharing information about the context, organisation, programmes, and relationships among the partners. The information shared and discussed in the meeting was beneficial in extending the fruitful collaboration and support between ECPAT International and ICS through the YPP project in Thailand and Cambodia.



European Safer Internet Day in Ukraine

On 8-9 February several activities were prepared by members of the ECPAT affiliate group, All-Ukrainian Network against CSEC, in honor of the European Safer Internet Day for Children. With the financial support of ECPAT International and YPP project, the NGO *School of Equal Opportunities* organized a quest for more than 300 children and their teachers and parents. Eight teams of 54 children participated in the competition while other children and adults took part in the interactive education event. Children from *School of Equal Opportunities* were interviewed by TV, radio, and newspapers regarding their personal experiences with the Internet, giving recommendations to other children on ICT safety. At the end of the event, all participants gathered in the main concert hall and many schools received gifts from various partners, such as La Strada – YPP project, IOM, Microsoft, Kyivstar (a mobile company), and the City Family Centre.

Construction Projects

On 2 – 3 February 2011, ECPAT International was invited to share good practices and lessons learned from *The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* and take part in the working group to discuss how to engage the construction industry to prevent the exploitation and abuse of children. With representatives from Mobile Creches in India, Harvard School of Public Health, Save the Children Mozambique, UNICEF, World Childhood Foundation in Brazil, and the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, the meeting focused mainly on sharing experiences and brainstorming methods of engaging the construction and construction sector. Please contact Mam for further information at: patchareeboons@ecpat.net



Progress in Turkey

The Turkish Network Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is making significant efforts to strengthen the protection of children from the violation of their rights. In 2010 the coalition covered a wide range of activities, including advocacy for legal reform, adaptation and distribution of awareness-raising and training materials, participation in meetings, and the organisation of capacity building for various actors. On 22-23 January 2011, the third annual General Assembly took place in Cappadocia gathering together 19 of the 23 network members. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the current network status and to develop a work plan for 2011 in accordance with the capacity of each member organization. A number of decisions were made to enhance the governance of the coalition. First, in an effort to ensure greater impact of the network, four different commissions were established on judicial and legal issues; training and research; communication (media and campaign); and counselling and treatment. Second, a coordination committee led by ICC was created and a president elected. Another important outcome of this meeting was the confirmation of Turkish coalition's unanimous interest to become an affiliate member of the ECPAT network. The coalition will submit an application prior to the next ECPAT International Board Meeting. Activities that the coalition plan to conduct in 2011 include: an annual report on CSEC in Turkey, participation in the 'Hürriyet's human rights train' covering 25 Turkish cities to raise awareness of CSEC, and developing a prevention project to support parents of children living or working on the streets.



Working with the Juvenile Justice System in Nicaragua

As part of the ongoing work to protect children and adolescents, ECPAT Affiliate group Casa Alianza Nicaragua and the Supreme Court of Justice signed an act of cooperation on 24 November 2010 to ensure legal protection for children and adolescents deprived of their liberty. The renewable agreement will run for three years and allows for youth found guilty of certain criminal activity and who meet the necessary criteria to become residents of Casa Alianza, where they will find security, protection, love, respect, physical and emotional recovery, and development of their potential and possibilities.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Alba Luz Ramos Vanegas, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, and Ms. Maria Jose Arguello, National Director of Casa Alianza. Honorary witnesses were Dr. Armengol Cuadra Lopez, Chief Magistrate of the Criminal Justice System, and Dr. Santiago Rivas Leclair, President of the Board of Directors of Casa Alianza Nicaragua.



YPP (Youth Partnership Project)

Most of the articles below are prepared by the YPP youth and children themselves

Nepal Team:

The Nepal Team conducted a Youth leadership Training and Road Show Programme under the Cross Border Micro Project from 12 - 15 January in the Eastern Region of Nepal. Sixteen youth participants from YPP Child Club and Youth Club from the ECPAT affiliate group Maiti Nepal were involved as a part of the Youth Leadership Training to build and develop their leadership skills. The young people prepared and designed the awareness activities during this event. There were approximately 350 community people, including children and youth, who attended to observe our programme. The drama performance was full of message on CSEC and trafficking that appreciated by the local people because they have clearly seen the lead roles and demonstration of children in trying to combat and reduce the social problem along the border areas of Nepal and India and how young people are trafficked across the border. The youth from India were also present and performed cultural programmes as well as delivered key and relevant messages. During this event, the youth also collected signatures from the local people from the area as a part of the petition campaign of ECPAT and The Body Shop against trafficking of children.



India Team:

The India Team organized Participation, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PME) workshops in all the shelter homes and communities with active involvement of young people and adults. The PME workshop was a review process to understand the progress and impact of the YPP in children and youth, which included methodology like group work and presentations. Some of the impacts that the PME workshops addressed were: individual change through participation in YPP, how trained youth have supported



Upcoming Events

Training to increase capacity of law enforcement officers to protect children and families from CSEC and Human Trafficking in Thailand

In recognition of the risk of human trafficking of families who live in remote areas, the Chiang Rai Provincial Office of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, in collaboration with Chiang Rai Provincial Police Division, the Provincial Immigration Centre, Sub-Committee of the Provincial Centre on Protection and Suppression of Human Trafficking, ECPAT Foundation of Human Trafficking, and World Vision Thailand, jointly organized a training for 90 law enforcement officers in Chiang Rai. The training will focus on increasing understanding of commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking, including enforcement of relevant laws. This includes key manifestations of CSEC, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551 (2008), Child Protection Act (2003), Convention on the Rights of the Child, and collaboration with relevant agencies. The target participants are Police Sergeants, who are on duty at immigration centers and check points, and Police Immigration Officers. The training is scheduled for 1-2 March 2011 at the Meeting Hall of Mae-Fa Luang University, Chiang Rai.

Compiled and edited by Miroslav Kalniev, ECPAT International.

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other child or youth in different working areas of YPP, the skills and qualities they think were needed or highlighted when they supported young people, and how YPP played a role (identifying specific activity) in enhancing or increasing those particular skills or qualities. The groups worked individually and in teams and presented their findings. Some of the responses were very inspiring and will be incorporated in the "Good Practice" documentation.

At the end of the workshop, it was clear that the YPP activities, such as trainings, workshops, Peer Support, and micro projects are helping a great deal to enhance the skills and qualities which in turn are being used by YPP youth to extend support to other children.

YPP Caregivers Training was organized from 20 - 22nd January 2011 that included both older and new adult staff members from ECPAT affiliate group SANLAAP and YPP partner local organizations. One of the key topics was "Legal aspects and reintegration".

The YPP youth have collected signatures in various interesting ways and places such as shopping malls and local village fairs for the ECPAT-TBS Signature Campaign. During the Cross Border Campaign, some of the youth collected signatures from colleges in the Jalpaiguri area and others from passer-by's, people who came to see the Roadshow Programme, the children who participated, and the journalists attending the event.



Bangladesh Team:

The Bangladesh Team organized Peer Support Mentorship Training from 2-6 January 2011 in which 30 children participated. Twenty-eight of the children were from YPP core group members from different shelter homes and street schools of Dhaka, and the rest were Peer Supporters from the Jhikargacha border area of Jessore. The training aimed to build the capacity of the youth on CSEC and child rights issues so they can support the other children in their respective schools and shelter homes. It was indeed a long course with a number of issues that have much importance in the lives of child survivors and those at risk of CSEC. All of the sessions were facilitated by the YPP youth with support of the team and the Training Officer of ECPAT affiliate group Aparajeyo Bangladesh. Some of the issues identified for the training sessions were understanding the YPP project, peer technique, CSEC & trafficking, early marriage, adolescence, drug addiction, life skills, and HIV/AIDS. The training has helped the youth become skilled on different issues that affect their lives. The youth are now conducting sessions with the children in their own shelter homes and schools as per their action plans.

