

A note from the Director.....

Greetings from the ECPAT Child ALERT Team. We trust this Newsletter will be of interest to you. The examples of child sexual exploitation in this edition both here and overseas are by no way exhaustive. Sadly they are only representative of the continuing abuse of the most vulnerable.

The disturbing elements behind the growing statistics are the dynamics that support the child sex industry. We do not use that term lightly. In this edition you will read of the lengths that offenders and organised crime syndicates will go to in order to profit from illegal activities – including trading in the sale of children. This trade is based upon the same formula as other forms of industry – that of supply and demand. Simply put if there was no demand for child sex either through underage prostitution, child pornography or child trafficking and child sex tourism there would be no boy and girl victims.

Included in those elements are globalisation, sexualisation, commodification, technology and the male perception of entitlement. When applied to child sex abuse these elements make up a toxic cocktail that destroys the lives of millions, condemning them to a life of hopelessness, pain and misery through modern day slavery.

According to the latest Australian Crime Commission Report the threat of organised crime over the last two years has become “more pervasive, more powerful and more complex”. Globally organised crime rakes in over \$987 Billion a year. The Report goes on to say that the Internet and new technologies have allowed syndicates to embrace globalisation. “The Internet enables global virtual networking and social interaction between criminals and has enabled the establishment of virtual marketplaces for illegal and illicit activities such as drugs, firearms, false

identification documents and child exploitation.”

There is no question that the need for more to be done grows stronger. It is not enough that as a nation we have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol Against the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography. Even though the Government have introduced stronger penalties and established specialist units to combat this crime the rate of offending does not appear to be diminishing. The work of ECPAT and other agencies is helping to make people more aware but this issue demands that the whole community work together to prevent all forms of child sexual exploitation.

We are fortunate in New Zealand to have robust and dedicated law enforcement but the awareness and response from society generally regarding child exploitation leaves much to be desired. Articles in this Newsletter indicate that some cases are brought to justice and the efforts of the agencies concerned are to be commended. However the aspects of research, education and public awareness of child exploitation requires better resourcing and deserves a higher priority in terms of funding. Until the understanding and attitudes of those who choose to abuse children are turned around this social evil will continue.



Alan Bell
National Director
ECPAT Child ALERT

ECPAT Awarded the World's largest Humanitarian Prize

ECPAT International based in Thailand and the leading global network of organizations dedicated to stopping the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), has been selected to receive the 2013 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize of \$1.5 million, the world's largest humanitarian prize.

The New Zealand Director of ECPAT Child ALERT, Alan Bell is justly

proud of the global effort made by the ECPAT network. “All of the funds from this prize will be utilised to progress the global programmes managed from the network's coordinating office in Bangkok. It is the sort of recognition and stimulus that organisations such as ECPAT treasure. It will have no bearing on the funding of the New Zealand agency which desperately requires

added resources to combat the local issues of child protection and the prevention of sexual exploitation in this country.”

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Australian man jailed for 40 yrs

Mark J. Newton, 42, was sentenced to 40 years in prison and was ordered to pay \$400,000 in restitution to the child. His boyfriend, Peter Truong, 36, pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

The couple bought the child from his Russian mother for \$8,000 in 2005.

"For more than one year and across three continents, these men submitted this young child to some of the most heinous acts of exploitation that this office has ever seen," Indiana US Attorney Joe Hogsett said after the sentencing.

They shared images and videos on their perverted network, which specialized in depictions of boys between 6 and 8 years old, federal prosecutors said.

Source: New York Daily News, June 2013



105 children rescued from prostitution ring

More than 100 children have been rescued by FBI agents in what the agency says is its biggest operation against child prostitution.

The FBI said that the three-day operation - dubbed Operation Cross Country - had freed 105 children in 76 US cities. The youngest was just nine years old.

It said that 150 "pimps and other individuals" had been arrested.

Ronald Hosko, assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, said most of the freed children were aged between 13 and 16.

"They'd been prostituted in a variety of locations, including truck stops, casinos, motels - as well as on social media and online advertisements," he said.

ECPAT Child ALERT's comments: FBI report largest child sex-trafficking crackdown in U.S. history. This case is just a glimpse of what is occurring the world over - we should remain vigilant and not think that any particular country (New Zealand included) is exempt from this vile crime.

Source: ABC News, July 2013

Facebook pulls ads from pages with violence and sexual content

The social network said in late June, it will expand its definition of pages and groups that are too controversial to carry advertisements.

Facebook has sought to strike a balance between giving its 1.1 billion users the freedom to post what they want and providing advertisers with space to sell their products.

In May, Facebook Inc. lost more than a dozen advertisers after an activist group urged an advertising boycott to protest hate speech on the Facebook site. The controversial content included grisly photos and mottos that encouraged rape, abuse and other violence against women.

The company said then that it would review its guidelines, update training for

employees and increase accountability for those who post such matter.

Facebook had already banned ads on certain pages. The new policy will expand on the categories affected by the ban. In the past, a company selling adult-theme products could have ads running on the right side of the page, for instance. Those pages will be ad-free starting July.



"We recognize we need to do more to prevent situations where ads are displayed alongside controversial Pages and Groups," the company said in a statement. "So we are taking action."

Facebook will continue to remove entire pages if they are deemed to violate its terms of service. The new policy covers pages that are permitted, but controversial.

ECPAT Child ALERT's comments: Social networking site takes measures to limit objectionable content on their site following complaints and threats to boycott their site. Maybe they should have done this earlier without being forced to only when their income at risk?

Source: BBC News, June 2013

Child sex abuse internet streaming on rise

Live streaming of child sex abuse via webcams is an emerging threat, experts have warned, amid a doubling of reported indecent images.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) said children were being "abused to order".

Their report found the number of still and moving child abuse images reported to CEOP had doubled in the last year to 70,000 - although this includes a "substantial" number of duplicated images.

CEOP said many abusers were hiding their actions deep in the "hidden internet" by using encrypted networks and other secure methods to distribute images. These methods made it harder for law enforcement agencies to trace abusers.

An estimated 50,000 UK web users are involved in distributing abuse images.

Source: BBC News, July 2013

Globalisation extends crime groups' reach

Globalised organised crime is pushing hard into Australia and NZ, stretching the ability of law agencies to keep pace with syndicates now also threatening national security.

The latest report on organised crime by the Australian Crime Commission says that in the past two years the threat has become "more pervasive, more powerful and more complex".

Its reach is such that syndicates can manipulate legitimate markets. The report says the internet and new technologies have allowed syndicates to embrace globalisation.

ECPAT Child ALERT's comments: Crime Commission report alarming degree of globalised organised crime - and New Zealand is included in the countries being targeted. Child exploitation is part of the range of criminal activities executed on a large scale."

Source: NZ Herald, World News, July 2013

The long arm of the law!

New Zealand law enforcement tip off results in arrest of a high profile educator charged with child sex offences in Canada.

Benjamin Levin, 61, was arrested and charged with two counts of distributing child pornography and one count each of making child pornography, counselling to commit an indictable offence and agreeing to or arranging for a sexual offence against a child under 16.

Levin, who is currently a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and is the Canada research chair in education leadership and policy, also served as deputy minister of education from 2004 to 2009 under former premier Dalton McGuinty.

Levin was arrested after police executed a search warrant at the Glengarry Ave. home he owns with his wife. An online, multi-jurisdictional, child exploitation

investigation led by the sex crimes unit's child exploitation section is on-going.

In a release, Toronto Police thanked the London Police Service and New Zealand's Censorship Compliance Unit of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).



Alan Bell of ECPAT Child ALERT commends the New Zealand international effort "Once again the New Zealand Internal Affairs specialised Compliance Unit has been instrumental in bringing a child sex

abuse case to the courts. The expertise of this unit and its strong network of international law enforcement agencies has been very effective in demonstrating that offenders who use the Internet to sexually abuse children will be tracked down and brought before the courts anywhere in the world" says Bell. "This is important not only as a deterrent but most importantly contributing towards the identification of the victims and rescuing them from any further abuse."

Levin, who is being represented by Gerald Chan will remain in custody until July 10 when a bail hearing is scheduled.

According to Levin's CV, he has made several trips to New Zealand in the past three years for seminars and presentations on education issues, including most recently in 2011 for a conference of New Zealand post primary teachers.

Source: ECPAT Press Release, July 2013

Paedophiles prepare "how to" guides and share tips on web

Websites set up by child sex offenders are being used to share information on how to find victims, evade police and cloak online profiles.

PEDOPHILES in Australia are creating online "how to" guides and ordering victims from overseas bars as authorities continue to wage war on child sex tourism.

Websites set up for child sex offenders are being used to share information on how to find victims, evade police and cloak online profiles.



Sex offenders with IT expertise use the sites to teach others how to hide images of children where they believe police will never find them. The sites also list overseas bars that sell young children for sex.

"They are as young as the offenders wish them to be," AFP Acting National Co-ordinator Child Protection Operations Peter Mellor said. "If the offender requests a toddler, one is usually obtained. And that applies for either gender - boys or girls."

ECPAT Child ALERT's comments: Law enforcement constantly monitor and thwart attempts by organised crime groups who employ sophisticated technology and expertise to further their aims. This results in an ongoing process as both parties develop new techniques.

Source: The Sunday Mail, Australia, June 2013

School worker admits sexual abuse of young girl

A man who worked for an Auckland primary school has pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a girl under the age of 12.

The man's occupation and his name have been suppressed until his sentencing date in September.

The 46-year-old appeared at the Auckland District Court July where he pleaded guilty to three charges of indecently assaulting a young girl under the age of 12.

ECPAT Child ALERT's comments: The Judge also commented that the family of the man were suffering as a result of his criminal behaviour. This may be so but how about what the child victim feels – the victims should be the first priority and the name suppression should be lifted so as to protect others. Source: NZ Herald News, July 2013

Tourist jailed in NZ for "Manga" images

A German tourist has been jailed for ten months for importing objectionable publications and images, after Customs found over 35,000 child sexual abuse images on his laptop.

Markus Balzer, 42, was arrested when he arrived at Christchurch airport from Germany on 6 March 2013, carrying a laptop containing Japanese Manga cartoon images of child sexual abuse.

Balzer indicated to Customs officers that he was an author who receives the images from clients to turn into electronic books for retail sale.

Shane Panettiere, Customs' Acting Group Manager Investigations and Response, says child sexual exploitation imagery of any kind is prohibited in New Zealand, and importation is a serious criminal offence.

Source: NZ Custom Service Press Release, May 2013

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