



Press Release

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Child Rights Organisation chosen for Conrad J Hilton Award

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. This is the 18th year for the Hilton Prize given by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to an organization that is significantly alleviating human suffering.

The announcement was made today at a Consultation convened by ECPAT to develop an action plan to combat child trafficking, prostitution and pornography in Africa which has been growing due to increased tourism, family breakdowns, greater access to new technologies, unsafe migration and widespread poverty.

“Each year 1.2 million children have their childhoods stolen from them by unscrupulous traffickers and pimps, generating a \$12 billion global market,” said Steven M. Hilton, president and CEO of the Hilton Foundation. “ECPAT’s work has been pivotal in mobilizing the international community to stop this evil commerce that does such harm to our children.”

Hilton Prize juror Strive Masiyiwa, a leading African entrepreneur and humanitarian whose foundation supports orphans and vulnerable children throughout the continent, noted, “Those of us on the jury were impressed by ECPAT’s leadership in addressing the explosion of child sexual exploitation and forging a worldwide coalition of NGOs, UN agencies, private sector and law enforcement entities to put a stop to these vile activities.”

The Prize is an impetus for ECPAT to accelerate action as we seek to build a world where no child is a victim of child prostitution, child pornography or trafficking for sexual purposes,” said Dorothy Rozga, Executive Director of ECPAT International.

“ECPAT was one of approximately 200 nominees received this year for the Hilton Prize,” said Judy Miller, vice president of the Hilton Foundation and director of the Hilton Prize. She added, “The Hilton Prize international jurors recognized the pressing need to put a spotlight on this malignancy that is growing throughout the world.”

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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