

How Travel Buyers Can Help End Child Trafficking

Three steps to end child trafficking at the source.

The Problem

With the use of online classified ads, child trafficking has moved off the streets and behind the closed doors of local hotel rooms. Youth are targeted and manipulated by pimps who transport victims from city to city via U.S. owned airlines and buses.

Exploiters use hotel rooms as venues to abuse children, knowing that systems are not in place to identify and protect the victims. Air travel is also a primary means of transportation for child sex tourists— individuals who travel overseas to sexually exploit local children.



The Solution

In response, buyers of corporate travel are in a position to express their interest in working with suppliers that address human trafficking. They can also become members of the Code themselves.

① Create a policy against the commercial sexual exploitation of children

Official policies send a zero-tolerance message to staff letting them know that they should not look away if they witness trafficking during travel. The policy will build a sense of pride in their company for being responsible. Sample policy is available.

② Include a line in RFPs inquiring about human trafficking policies and Code membership

This RFP will alert business partners about your important corporate commitment to child protection and their role in addressing the issue. Sample RFP on next page.

③ Sign the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct

The Code is the travel industry's commitment to stop child trafficking. Signatories of **the Code** are supported by ECPAT-USA to comprehensively and sustainably address trafficking.

ECPAT-USA's Role in your Response

ECPAT-USA can develop a work-plan outlining how your company can effectively address this issue. We can engage in strategic planning on the best way to leverage your position to fight child trafficking:

- Develop corporate training on the topic.
- Develop consumer friendly copy on the topic.
- Available for speaking engagements on corporate responsibility, children's rights, etc.

Join These Organizations in Partnering with ECPAT-USA



Contact us today: Michelle Guelbart, Director of Private Sector Engagement [michelle@ecpatusa.org] – 718-935-9192

RFP Language Addressing Child Trafficking

There have been instances where customers who become knowledgeable about the hospitality's role in protecting children from trafficking and prefer to book their events or travel with companies that are members of the Code. In these instances, you can provide the supplier information through a clause, RFP, or through verbal negotiation. *You should keep track of the number of contracts this clause is introduced into.*



Sample RFPs Against Sexual Exploitation of Children

The travel industry plays a prominent role as an enabler to criminals who transport and sell child and adult trafficking victims.

- ① The trafficking of women and children occurs in the United States. Are you aware of this growing problem as it relates to the use of hotels by criminals for this activity? Yes No N/A
- ② Does your company have a policy against human trafficking? Yes No N/A
- ③ Does your hotel train employees to identify and report suspicious instances where child trafficking might be occurring on your property? Yes No N/A
- ④ Has your company signed on to the ECPAT-USA Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (www.thecode.org, www.ecpatusa.org) Yes No N/A
- ⑤ ECPAT-USA can help travel suppliers in raising awareness of the trafficking of women and children. Would you be interested in knowing more about the Code of Conduct and how you can actively participate in fighting this growing crime? Yes No N/A

Companies Implementing RFP Language

