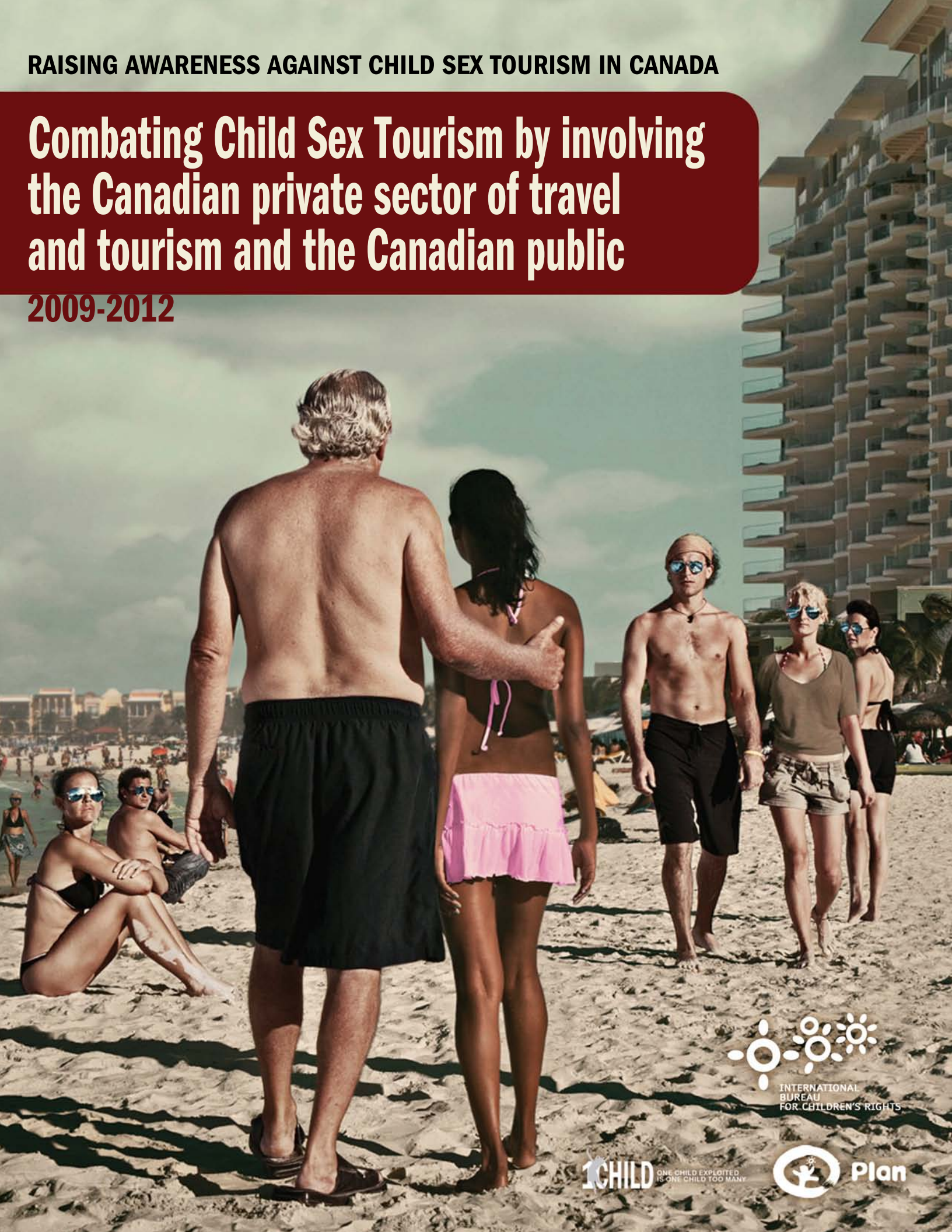


RAISING AWARENESS AGAINST CHILD SEX TOURISM IN CANADA

# Combating Child Sex Tourism by involving the Canadian private sector of travel and tourism and the Canadian public

2009-2012



INTERNATIONAL  
BUREAU  
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IBCR would like to thank...

## The members of our coalition



One Child : <http://onechild.ca/>



Plan Canada : <http://plancanada.ca/>



UNICEF Canada : <http://www.unicef.ca/>

## Our institutional partners

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Minister of Justice of Canada, Public Safety Canada, the SPVM (Service de police de la Ville de Montreal), the Surêté du Québec

## The private sector

BCP advertising, Air Canada, Astral Media, Cybertip

The Montreal International Airport authorities

**Our dedicated team of interns** who worked on various stages of this 2 year long effort lead by Programme Manager, Marco Sotelo, and Director General, Nadja Pollaert: Anne-Marie Levesque, Marie Bernier, Mia Choinière, Caroline Rochon-Gruselle, Tina Iriotakis, Kristina Ziaugra, Marie-Luise Ermisch, Catherine Legault and Vienna Napier.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the religious communities in Canada who believed from the beginning that the promotion of the extraterritorial law, the prevention of child sex tourism through the collaboration of key stakeholders and the prosecution of Canadians exploiting children abroad is a main concern.

We are thankful to the Minister of Justice of Canada who generously contributed to promote the protection of children in 2011.

**RAISING AWARENESS AGAINST CHILD SEX TOURISM IN CANADA**

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the Canadian private sector of travel  
and tourism and the Canadian public**

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## **Who is the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)?**

The IBCR is an international nongovernmental organisation based in Montreal, Canada.

Our mission is to contribute to the promotion and the respect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), an international legal instrument adopted by the UN in 1989 and now ratified by 192 countries.

It was the CRC that led to the creation of the IBCR. The principles enshrined in the CRC and its optional protocols continue to guide the IBCR on its rights-based approach.

The IBCR collaborates and seeks partnerships with those committed to assuring the implementation of the CRC including intergovernmental bodies, international, regional and local NGOs and others that are also concerned by the rights and the dignity of children worldwide.

### **Why did we decide to work on this issue?**

Following its mandate to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, the IBCR identified that the phenomenon of Child Sex Tourism as well as its social and legal consequences were almost unknown in Canada. The general population was unaware of the existence of Extraterritorial Law and its implications. Although Canada has agreed to a number of international action plans, declarations and agreements on eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children, the phenomenon persists and remains a crucial and often ignored justice issue.

The sexual exploitation of children is often not thought of as a Canadian issue; however this is far from reality. Over one hundred Canadians have been investigated for sexual crimes against children committed abroad but only five have been convicted. Too few Canadians are convicted for these crimes while more young Canadian tourists find themselves involved in CST due to ignorance or a lack of information. This must be addressed through awareness and education, the goals of this campaign.

The IBCR also realised that much more work needs to be done regarding corporate social responsibility policies related to child protection. In this sense, only two companies in Canada have signed the Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism (The Code), in comparison to 89 in Brazil and 81 in Japan. The IBCR sought to engage the private sector and encourage and pressure businesses in the tourism and hotel industry to adopt measures to prevent CST. Finally by educating and raising awareness among the general public we aspire to change attitudes towards CST and to engage the public in eradicating this phenomenon.

Since 2009, the IBCR is an active member of the Canadian Senate Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Children. In addition, the IBCR has drafted the shadow report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on behalf of the Canadian Coalition on the Rights of the Child.

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# 1. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in travel and tourism: “Child Sex Tourism” (CST)

“**Child sex tourism is the commercial sexual exploitation of children** by people who travel from one place to another to engage in sexual acts with minors. Often, child sex tourists travel from a richer country to one that is less developed, or they may be travelers within their own countries or region. Child sex tourists take advantage of their **anonymity** as well as the socio-economic **disparities** in the locations they visit.” – ECPAT International<sup>1</sup>

## The Scope of the Problem:

### Who are the offenders?

- They can be both international and domestic: either foreigners or domestic nationals travelling within their own country.
- Situational abusers: The situational child sex 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 sex tourist who is presented with the opportunity to interact sexually with a person under 18 and takes it. The majority of child sex tourists are situational offenders.
- Preferential abusers: The preferential child sex tourist displays an 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 child sex tourist will generally search for pubescent or adolescent children. It is important to distinguish the preferential child sex tourist from the pedophile (see below).
- or Pedophiles: The pedophile manifests an exclusive sexual inclination for pre-pubescent children. Usually considered as someone suffering from a clinical disorder, the pedophile may not show any preference for the gender of children and may not view sexual contact with children as harmful. Pedophiles, as well as the ‘preferential’ abusers described above, are a minority of child sex tourists.<sup>2</sup>

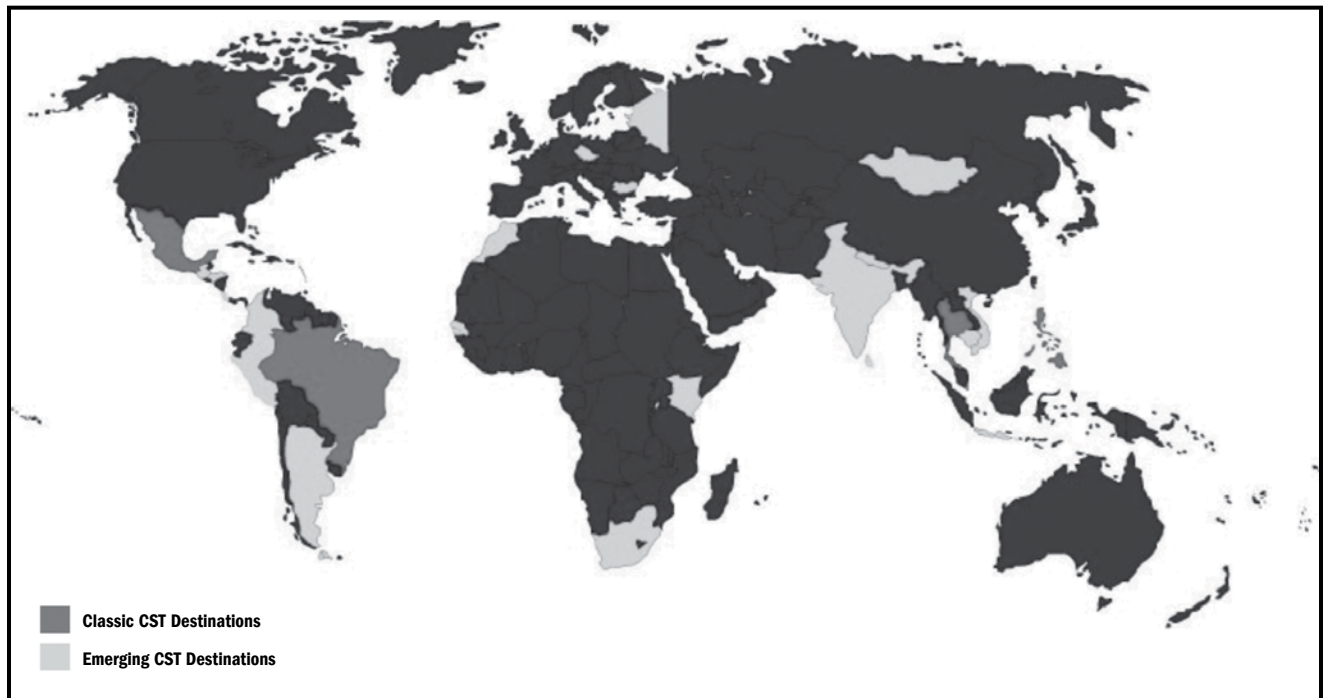
ECPAT International is a **global network** of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It seeks to encourage the world community to **ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.**

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1. The IBCR uses ECPAT’s terminology in order to facilitate the differentiation of this form of sexual exploitation from others, so that readers are clear on the issues at hand and the specific characteristics of this modality.  
2. Definitions taken from: ECPAT International. Luc Ferran, Giorgio Berardi and Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon, “Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions & Answers”, Saladaeng Printing Co.Ltd., 2008.

## The victims

- According to ECPAT, victims of Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism often come from **socio-economically disadvantaged** backgrounds. Many of them are also members of **marginalised ethnic minorities**. Victims are both girls and boys, some of whom may have also suffered from **domestic abuse** and neglect.
- Regardless of their background, all child victims of sexual exploitation experience **severe** emotional, psychological and physical **consequences** as a result of their exploitation.



Child Sex offenders are mostly men coming from North America or Western Europe traveling to developing countries. Canadians make Latin America and the Caribbean their preferred destinations for sexual exploitation of children over more “traditional” hot spots such as Thailand, due to proximity and lower costs.

### VICTIMS ARE OFTEN

- Caught in poverty
- From minority groups
- Dependent on seasonal economies
- Working children
- Children in the street
- Children abused or neglected in the home
- AIDS orphans

## Common Misconceptions, myths, and flat-out excuses:

“There are many misconceptions and myths about having sex with a virgin or a child. In many African and Asian countries, it is sometimes thought that having sex with young girls will provide protection against HIV/AIDS and other STDs, or cure them entirely. Others believe that it can bring them renewed youthfulness, luck, good health, virility, and success in business. Some argue that in certain cultures, children are sexually “free” and sexually mature at a young age, and that they have chosen to engage in prostitution. **But we know that no children who are living happy and secure lives would choose to be exploited.** We also know that those who claim that they are helping the children by giving them money or gifts in return for sexual acts, are actually taking advantage of their poverty and are doing them no favour.” – One Child website

## Questions & Answers Misconceptions<sup>3</sup> :

- 1) Are sex offenders only old men?
  - Child sex tourists **come from all walks of life**: they may be married or single, male or female, wealthy tourists or budget travelers.
- 2) Are sex offenders helping children to improve their quality of life and lift them from poverty?
  - Child sex exploiters may try to rationalise their actions by claiming that sex with a child is culturally acceptable in the place they are visiting, or that the money or goods exchanged benefit the child and community. **The truth is that they are contributing to the perpetual cycle of exploitation and as a result these children do not have access to other educational and income generating opportunities.**
- 3) Does Child Sex Tourism only occur in sun and beach destinations?
  - Destinations can change. When prevention and protection efforts are stepped up in one country, child-sex tourists often shift to other destinations where it may be easier or less risky to sexually exploit children. **The violation can happen everywhere.**

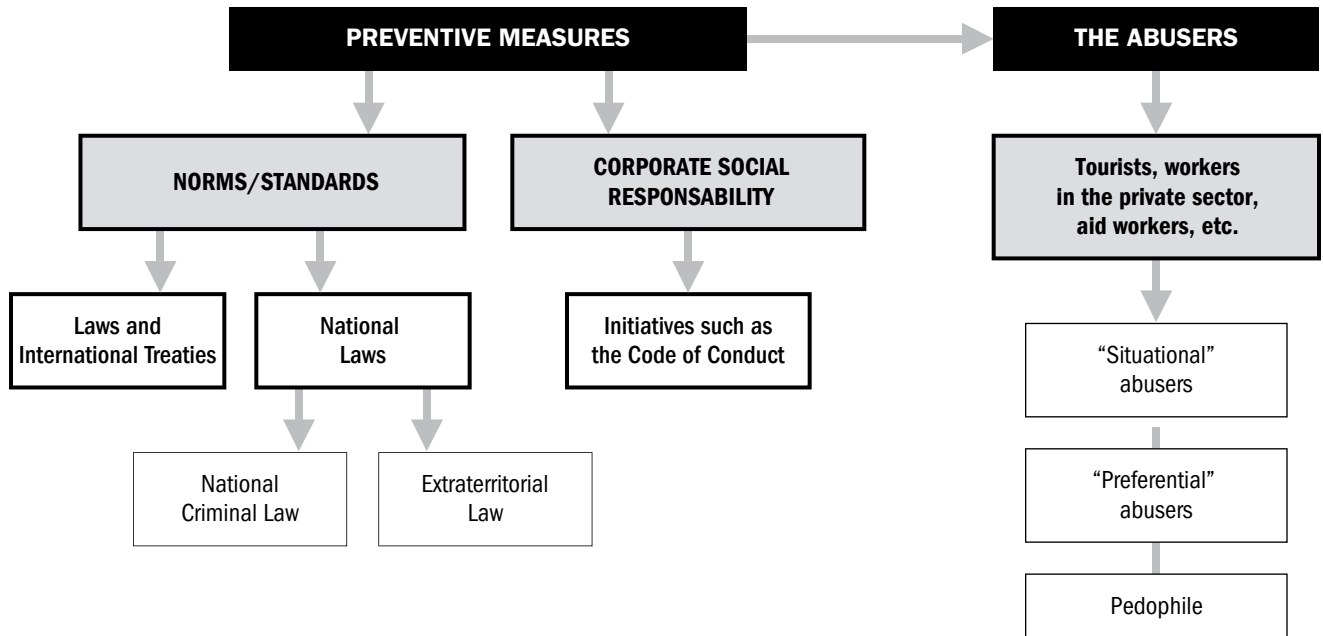
Almost every country in the world is prohibiting sexual relations with a child and/or sexual exploitation of a child. Either through their child protection law and/or the criminal code

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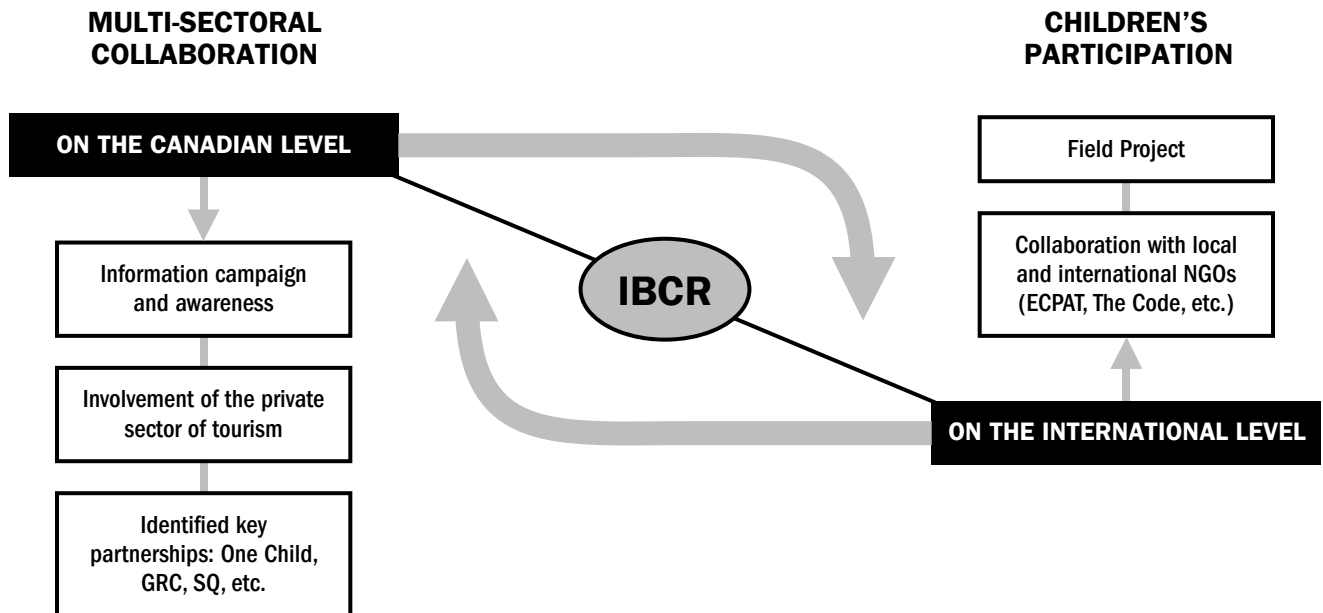
3. ECPAT International information booklet. “Questions and Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children”, Saladaeng Printing Co.Ltd., 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2008. p.14.



## THE PHENOMENON OF CHILD SEX TOURISM: AN APPROACH TO ACT



## THE WORK OF THE IBCR



## 2. Where does Canada stand?

Canada signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on May 28th, 1990 and **ratified** the Convention on December 13th, **1991**. Canada signed the Convention's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Optional Protocols in **2000 and 2001**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> being on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

### Canada's commitment regarding the Agenda for action (ECPAT)

The Canadian government was in attendance at **ECPAT** International's 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children in **Rio (Brazil)** in November of **2008**. ECPAT's "**Global Action Plan**" to end the sexual exploitation of children was promoted to participants, including representatives from **governments**, the **private sector** and **civil society**. Recommendations to combat this global issue were put forward, notably the signing of **The Code of Conduct**, and materials such as their **training resource kit** on CST and the Code.

The International Bureau for Children's Rights gave a presentation at the Rio Congress on enhancing the protection of children victims and witnesses of crime.

### Canadian Extraterritorial Law (1997)

As of 1997, Canada enacted extraterritorial legislation allowing for the prosecution of Canadian citizens having committed sexual offenses against children, wherever they are in the world, Section 7 (4.1) of the Criminal Code.

Since this legislation has been effective, 5 Canadians have been convicted of the crime of child sex tourism.

The case of Kenneth Klassen, a Canadian man who pleaded guilty of the sexual abuse of 17 girls in Cambodia, the Philippines and Colombia and was sentenced to 11 years in a federal prison by the B.C. Supreme Court in July 2010<sup>4</sup>, was a landmark ruling as "it provides the first explicit judicial affirmation of the validity of Canada's extraterritorial child sex crime provisions under both Canadian constitutional law and international law."<sup>4</sup>

Our congratulations go to Brendan McCabe, Crown Prosecutor for the Kenneth Klassen case in British Columbia.

The other convicts are:

- Donald Bakker, sentenced to 10 years in 2005;
- Denis Rochefort, sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and 3 years probation in 2008; Armand Huard, sentenced to 3 years in 2008;
- Christopher Neil, sentenced to 9 years and 3 months imprisonment in 2009.

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4. Benjamin Perrin, "Taking a Vacation from the Law? Extraterritorial Criminal Jurisdiction and Section 7(4.1) of the *Criminal Code*" *Canadian Criminal Law Review* (June 2009), p. 177.

## Impact-oriented Partnerships

### The Coalition

In 2010, IBCR initiated a coalition with Plan Canada and One Child, endorsed by UNICEF Canada. The coalition has the objective to join efforts and create synergies to fight against CST and is open to all organisations which pursue the same objective.

OneChild, a Toronto based youth organisation is an empowering movement of children and youth taking action against child sex slavery. OneChild was founded in 2005 by international child rights advocate Cheryl Perera. Cheryl decided to act when she was 16 years old after learning about the global sex trade of children during a high school project. Today, OneChild has an impressive membership of young child rights advocates and supports children victims of the sex trade in Asia.

Plan Canada: Founded in 1937, Plan is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies. Plan is working in partnership with millions of people around the world to end global poverty. Plan works in more than 65 countries on critical issues affecting millions of children. Child-Centered Community Development (CCCD) is Plan's main approach.

UNICEF Canada: UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is one of the world's best recognized charities and a leading advocate for children, helping to build a world where the rights of every child are respected. Unique among world organizations and among those working with the young, UNICEF has the global authority to influence decision-makers and the grassroots partnerships to turn innovative, life-saving ideas into reality.

### Collaboration with Cybertip.ca

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection supported the International Bureau for Children's Rights' fight against the exploitation of children and more particularly sex tourism involving children, a growing phenomenon occurring in an increasing number of countries.

Our warm thanks go to Signy Arnason, Director of Cybertip.ca (The Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc.)



The IBCR's strength is in its partnerships. Our organisation has been extremely successful in collaborating with multiple stakeholders working towards eradicating the crimes related to child sex tourism:

### **Law enforcement authorities:**

The IBCR partnered with the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), Montreal police (SPVM), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Canadian border services agency (CBSA), to undertake a canadianwide campaign against child sex tourism. During the campaign's launch in November 2010, Commander Jérôme Morissette, Chief of the Montréal police's Sexual Assault Section emphasised:

**“The Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) unconditionally supports the efforts of the IBCR to protect children. Watching out for children, and making sure they are safe at all times, is everybody's shared responsibility. Any wrongful act committed against a child must be reported to the police immediately.”**

### **The Government**

The IBCR enjoyed a strong partnership with the various governmental departments notably the Minister of Justice of Canada and Public Safety Canada, who have provided their support in sharing advice, participating in awareness raising events with the private sector and in financially supporting our joint efforts.

### **The Private Sector**

The involvement of the private sector in the planning and implementation of campaign activities was vital; their expertise of the business sector of travel and tourism allowed us to properly define our campaign material and reach out to travelers and tourists.

- **Travel and tourism companies** have great power in their networks and outreach to travelling populations. The role of the private sector is extremely crucial in the prevention and reinforcement of information and resources to fight against this pressing issue.
- **Airport authorities** have the ability to provide a strategic place for a meeting or campaign launch, and to provide the necessary media exposure to travellers targeted by awareness-raising efforts. Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) is a key partner in the campaign.

Christiane Beaulieu, ADM's Vice-President of Public Affairs and Communications, said:

**“We believe it is important to remind Canadians that they are not immune from the laws of their own country when they travel abroad. This is why we are supporting this initiative of the IBCR”.**

### 3. First Canadianwide Campaign against the Sexual exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism

Photo below taken at the campaign launch at the Montreal International Airport in November 2010



The campaign was officially launched in November 2010 at the Montreal International Airport. Coalition members, law enforcement officials (Canadian Border Agency, Sûreté du Québec, Service de Police de Montréal, etc), airport authorities as well as representatives of Air Canada were all present to show their support and commitment against the exploitation of children abroad.

#### Our campaign aimed to:

1. **Educate** Canadians about the legal and social consequences of **Child Sex Tourism (CST)** as well as to raise awareness on Canada's **extraterritorial law**.
2. **Involve** the Canadian public in the fight against child sex tourism in particular when Canadians are implicated. We encouraged Canadian tourists to remain **vigilant** while travelling and to report any activity related to the sexual abuse of a child that they may witness while abroad to **cybertip.ca**, the official channel created for this purpose.

## How we succeeded

The IBCR hosted **3 forums** on the protection and prevention of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, which united members of the travel and tourism industry, law enforcement officials, NGOs, as well as government officials. These were instrumental in the preliminary stages of the national effort in **creating an initial network of partnerships** for the dissemination of the campaign.

## The Montreal Forum

On **December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights launched a concerted Forum entitled “The Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism” co-organised with Thomas Cook and SkyLink Voyages, at the offices of **Tours Chanteclerc** in the Old Port of Montreal. The Forum’s key speakers called for the urgent participation of the formal travel and tourism sectors in the prevention and denunciation of offences pertaining to the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Presenters included:

- Carmen Rioux, Director of Criminal and Penal Proceedings of Quebec: *The legal implications of child sex tourism, extraterritorial jurisdiction, pertinent cases*
- Claude Levac, Director of International Relations, Sûreté du Québec: *A survey of child sex tourism and its challenges: the required collaboration of the private sector*
- Dr. Camelia Tepelus, Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism: *The Code of Conduct to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Implementation process.*

## The Toronto Forum

On **September 24<sup>th</sup> 2010**, our coalition held a forum bringing together key players of the travel and tourism industry and the Canadian government. The event was hosted by Air Canada, in its Toronto offices. Presenters included:

- Ms. Priscille Le Blanc, Vice-President-Corporate Communications Air Canada: *Air Canada’s commitment to responsible tourism*
- Cheryl Perera, Founder of OneChild: *The history of the partnership with Air Canada and the perspective of youth and adolescents about the Sexual Exploitation of Children*
- Sarah Stevenson, Senior Programme Advisor Child Rights and Protection- Plan Canada: *From international to national: How international conventions impact the issue and Canadian legislation*
- Natalie Levman, Counsel- Justice Canada: *Legal implications of Child Sex Tourism and application of the Canadian Extraterritorial Law*



## The Vancouver Forum

On **April 13<sup>th</sup> 2011**, the third forum on the “Protection of Children and Adolescents in Travel and Tourism” was hosted by Air Canada in its Vancouver offices. We were able to welcome guest speakers with impressive professional expertise and credentials in the field, who volunteered their time to speak on behalf of the issue. Our guest speakers included:

- Brendan McCabe, Crown Prosecutor for the Kenneth Klassen case: *The prosecution of Canadian abusers under extraterritorial laws and its challenges*
- Brian McConaghy MSM, BA.- Ratanak International: *Investigation and Extraterritorial Law*
- Rosalind Currie, Office to Combat Human Trafficking (BC) Director of Policy and Stakeholder Relations: *The Human Trafficking Link*

Photo bellow taken at the Vancouver forum in April 2011



## 4. We took it further...

### Informing the private sector

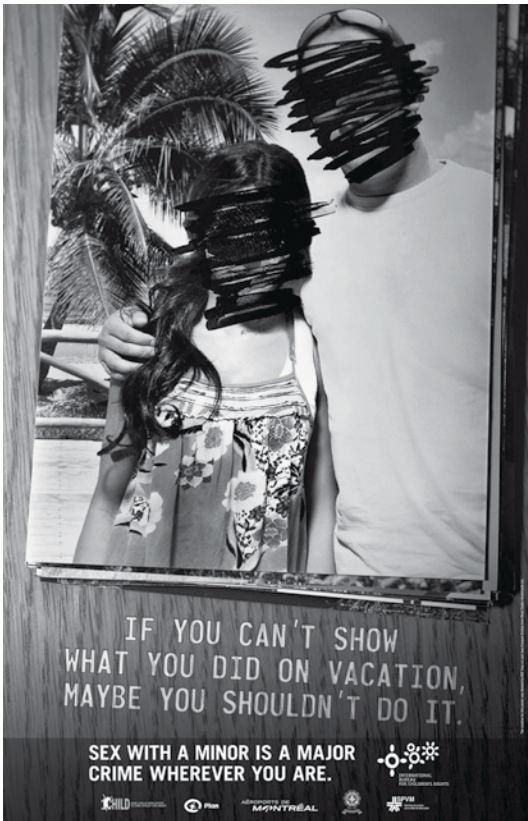
- The IBCR provided training to *Canandes Tours* in March 2010 on the issue of CST to the travel agency's employees
- The IBCR gave a presentation on its work at the "Responsible Travel and Tourism Conference" in Toronto on October 2010, where our organisation established important contacts with the private sector for the dissemination of the campaign materials.

### Engage the private sector

The IBCR engaged in many **personal meetings** at various offices in order to introduce the campaign message and to convey the importance of their participation in the fight against CST. Our organisation engaged in direct dissemination of the campaign material to various travel agencies, tour operators, tourism offices, travel service providers (clinics, Travel & Tourism schools) and consulates across Canada.

- Toronto: 52 affiches, 1,560 brochures
- Montreal: 26 posters, 6164 pamphlets
- Toronto: 52 posters, 1560 pamphlets
- Vancouver: 30 posters, 607 pamphlets
- electronic versions of the material: 8 posters, 4 pamphlets

Campaign poster (English version)



Campaign pamphlet (English version)



## Airport Posters

- Astral Media provided pro-bono media services to the IBCR in support of our campaign against the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. They covered the rent costs of placing our campaign poster in the **Montreal** and **Quebec City** airports in two separate advertising locations, for a total of **4 posters**.
- Initially, our agreement with Astral was that our campaign **visibility** would be during the **high travel season** period from December 2010 until March 2011. They were, however, able to extend our visibility period until August 2011 for both spaces at the Montreal airport, and to October 2011 for one space and January 2012 for another at the Quebec airport.

Montreal Airport shown in images: Gates 58 and 61



## enRoute Publications: Air Canada in-flight magazine

- Campaign **posters** were printed in **3 separate full page** spreads in “enRoute” publications: March, August and September 2011
- 1, 030 000 copies are printed of each issue, therefore 3 months represents roughly 3, 000 000 people having access to the campaign message





## International Tourism and Travel Show, Montreal

The IBCR was invited to participate in the International Tourism and Travel Show by Show Manager, Jean Provencher, free of charge.

Our organisation was able to distribute campaign material and to inform a great number of private sector members as well as the general public in the Montreal area.

- « Place Bonaventure » Montreal, Quebec : October 19-21, 2011.
- Circulation : 35,000 people on average
- Exhibitors : 153 (private sector of tourism, tourism bureaus and consulates)
- **4 campaign posters** were strategically located at all 4 corners of the event hall
- **5,000 pamphlets** distributed among exhibitors and circulators
- Individual meetings with travel agencies

## The Online Campaign: December 2011

### The Banner Advertisement

The banner consisted of an animated sequence of images, shot and edited by **BCP** advertising which, at the end of the animation, was programmed to link to the campaign Facebook page once clicked on. The final frame of the banner (image below) instructed viewers to join the cause and remain vigilant while travelling.

The IBCR was able to secure enthusiastic partnerships in **Montreal** and **Toronto**-based travel websites. After many communication efforts and significant follow up with an extensive list of online travel agencies and tour companies, we were **successful in partnering** with 8 companies who were extremely motivated and thoroughly involved in the programming.



## The Facebook Page: Eyes on Patrol/Restez vigilant

The campaign's Facebook page acquired 1,800 followers, either directed to the campaign from the electronic banner, the Facebook advertisement, or from the IBCR's, Plan's or One Child's pre-existing online followers.

"Eyes on Patrol/Restez vigilant":

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Eyes-on-Patrol-Restez-vigilant/247577048638804>

Profile Picture:



An interactive "vigilance" application, created by BCP, allows followers who "like" our page to apply police aviator sunglasses to their personal profile pictures in order to spread the message to their friends that they support the fight against CST.

Facebook Page Content :



- **Best practices** of tourism, hotel, and airline companies who have implemented policies to fight against child sex tourism. They have either demonstrated good corporate social responsibility through the signing of the Code of Conduct, creating their own social programme and outreach to children affected by sexual exploitation, or have supported our campaign by posting our banner on their travel websites.
- Information about the issue of CST as well as instructions and the link to the official **witness reporting channel**: [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca)



- Albums consisting of images from campaigns by other NGOs, photos from the campaign launch, media coverage of Plan Canada as well as OneChild's projects to prevent CST and their work for children victims of CST.

## Media coverage 2010-2011

For more information on media coverage please see the IBCR website: [www.ibcr.org](http://www.ibcr.org)

- Radio coverage from CBF FM, CHMP FM and CJAD AM
- Television coverage from CBFT, CFCF, Télé V (Face à face), and Télé Québec (Les francs-tireurs)



## 5. More needs to be done...

### The Importance of Bilateral Collaboration between Canada and destination countries

In order to enhance the prosecution of sex offenders, an important step that needs to occur is **greater coordination** efforts between Canada and the main Canadian travel destinations where high incidents of CST have been reported. This collaboration should take the form of a **bilateral campaign** where travelers receive information from both travel agencies and airlines in Canada as well as from hotels in destination countries, on the existence of **Canadian extraterritorial law and the local child protection laws in a given country**.

Canadian and local authorities should coordinate in sharing information; this would include RCMP liaison officers, embassies and consulates, etc. A bilateral campaign such as this one must include evaluating mechanisms in order to assess its impact and to determine its success in leading to increased arrests and convictions.

### The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

The Code of Conduct is an **industry driven responsible tourism initiative** co-funded by the Swiss Government (SECO) and by the tourism private sector and supported by the ECPAT International network. Advisory partners are: UNICEF and UNWTO.

The **IBCR is now the Canadian representative** of the Code. Companies are able to sign through the IBCR and become leaders in Corporate Social Responsibility Policies.

Suppliers of tourism services adopting the Code commit themselves to implement the following six criteria:"

- I To establish an **ethical policy** regarding the sexual exploitation of children
- II To **train the personnel** in the country of origin and travel destinations
- III To introduce a **clause in contracts with suppliers**, stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children
- IV To **provide information to travellers** by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket slips, home pages, etc.
- V To **provide information to local "key persons"** at the destinations
- VI To **report** annually

There are currently  
1030 companies in 42 countries  
that have signed the Code  
[www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)

We would like to encourage the Canadian Government to actively promote the signing of The Code and the implementation of other Child Protection practices that can be adopted by the private sector of tourism, in coherence with Corporate Social Responsibility policies.

## The Creation of a Virtual Platform

The creation of a “Virtual Platform” in order to enhance bi-national collaboration against CST would allow for the centralisation of information for NGOs, travelers and the private sector to access on prevention and protection mechanisms against CST. This would lead to a greater support for victims of child sex tourism.

The content of this virtual platform would consist of:

- I A **tri-lingual** (English, French and Spanish) website
- II A brief **information** overview about CST
- III Highlighting different **actors** (private, public and nongovernmental)
- IV Promoting Canadian **Extraterritorial law**
- V Listing information on **resources** for individuals (i.e. cybertip.ca, NGO in destination countries), travel and tourism sector (embassies and law enforcement agencies)
- VI Targeting a potential **witness** audience and offering simple guidelines for safe and convenient ways to take action and to **report**
- VII Offering the private sector of tourism, especially members operating in CST destination countries, a **free online training** on prevention methods and **tools** in how to address the issue of CST.

The creation of a consolidated **information network** (available to law enforcement entities and different stakeholders involved) will allow for the enhanced prosecution of travelling sex offenders; this will be made possible through a **virtual and interactive map** as well as a **stakeholder directory**.

The IBCR considers it an essential undertaking to create a virtual platform to enhance the prosecution of Canadians committing sexual offenses against children while abroad and to inform travelers and companies. A low cost investment would be to create an **interactive website** for the collaboration in fighting against cases of exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

## 6. IBCR next steps: Child participation and working bi-nationally thanks to the support of the Canadian Development Agency

The IBCR, in collaboration with **Fundacion Paniamor** and with the support of World Vision Canada, is beginning a new project in Costa Rica, which will aim to **improve collaboration** and to **enhance the prosecution** of these kinds of crimes against children. Moreover, the project will focus on working **directly with children**, families, and communities of the **most affected areas** in Costa Rica, providing **information, tools** and the creation of a **support network** for the victims of this exploitation. Adolescents will receive information about mechanisms of self-protection and **income generating alternatives** to the commercial sexual exploitation.

In addition, the IBCR will work on a baseline study, a national campaign against CST with the well-recognised Jordanian organisation MIZAN in Amman, Jordan.

## Annex: News Articles

“Airport campaign targets sex tourists.” CBC. 18 Nov. 2010 <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2010/11/18/airport-campaign-targets-sex-tourists.html>>

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