



Follow up from ECPAT Indonesia

6 month after DRV Destiantion Workshop to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism in December 2018

Overview about the actual situation on sexual child exploitation in Indonesia

The rapid development of internet and tourism industry has exposed children to information, which may not appropriate for them and this has influenced their communication patterns and made them vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Children might be exposed to pornographic materials and tourists' irresponsible sexual behaviors on the internet.

ECPAT Indonesia conducted with support from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection an assessment in some villages, which are tourist destinations. They found that tourists have treated many children as sexual objects. Children accessed pornography from tourism industry and were sexually abused by tourists when they sold souvenirs in tourism destinations. In addition, they were exposed to commercial sexual practices in some cafés, which operated until late at night.

The number of children in tourism destinations who access pornographic materials also continues to grow because of the presence of internet cafés and free Wi-Fi service provided by tourism operators. The provision of free Wi-Fi service in rural areas, which originally aims to improve community access to information, is used by children to access pornographic materials and online games containing child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Child marriage is also found in tourism destinations. This practice, however, is not directly influenced by tourism because it has existed prior to the development of the area to be a tourism destination. However, it is worried that tourists may use the practice of child marriage as a modus to marry children in tourism destinations. Some hotels allow their guests to take children to their hotel. Even, they allow children who check-in with other children. On the other hand, often accommodation facility owners permit local communities to offer children for sex around their facilities.

There are many cases of the involvement of children in prostitution in tourism destinations. At the beginning of 2019, ECPAT Indonesia, together with its members, handled a child prostitution case in which five children from Jakarta and Bogor were employed in a brothel in Bali. There are many children, who are employed in cafés, massage parlors, bars and discotheques. Not only girls are involved in prostitution, but also boys. Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism has also spread from Bali to Lombok, because they are very close and communities are lack of awareness of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.



The rapid development of information technology has also made children particularly vulnerable to online child prostitution. Tourists who want to have sex with children can get information about the availability of children for sex on the internet and they can directly access children via accounts offering sex with children.

New initiatives and projects to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism

- ECPAT Indonesia and the Indonesian Tourism Industry Association (GIPI) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to prevent sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.
- ECPAT Indonesia, together with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, has developed a **guide for a child-friendly rural tourism** with support from the Ministry of Tourism and the Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association. Currently, a **child-friendly rural tourism model** is still being developed so that it can be adopted by other villages all over the country.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Down to Zero Alliance ECPAT Indonesia is developing a **guideline for private sector collaboration** to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. GIPI, tourism communities and tour operators, civil society and other organisations fully support this initiative.
- Government has taken **measures to improve the involvement of business sector in human rights protection** in Indonesia. Although tourism sector has not yet become the main priority, the measures have been taken massively at private sector level. For example, the Indonesia Global Compact Network (IGCN) and UNICEF have encouraged private sectors to pay attention to human rights issues in their business operation. As a part of the working group in IGCN, ECPAT Indonesia encourages private sectors to pay attention to child protection issues.
- Together with Down to Zero Alliance, ECPAT Indonesia is implementing a **program for addressing the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in four cities** in Indonesia such as Batam, Jakarta, Surabaya and Lombok. The program is implemented in cooperation with local governments and tourism operators in the four areas.