



Eradicating sex tourism in less economically developed countries

Forum: SOCHUM

Issue: Eradicating sex tourism in less economically developed countries

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is widely regarded as of significant benefit, in particular, for less developed countries (LDCs), where tourism it is claimed, can make a substantial contribution to development and in combating poverty. It can facilitate product diversification towards a graduation out of LDC status. A diversified form of tourism is sex tourism, estimated as a 1 billion dolar per year business (Hawaii State, 2004).

While delivering economic benefits for some, it simultaneously generates significant costs through human trafficking/sex slavery, estimated to be the third largest financially lucrative activity after illegal weapons and drugs, ; child sexual exploitation; sexual violence and the transmission of sexually transmitted fatal diseases (HIV/AIDS). Interventions to discourage sex tourism therefore are seen by some stakeholders as key to reducing the demand for sex trafficking.

DEFINITION OF KEY WORDS

Sex tourism: The organization of holidays with the purpose of taking advantage of the lack of restrictions imposed on sexual activity and prostitution by some foreign countries.

Human trafficking: the crime of buying and selling people, or making money from work they are forced to do, such as sex work.

Prostitution: The practice or occupation of engaging in sexual activity with someone for payment.

Abuser: A person who uses something to bad effect or for a bad purpose.

Sexual Exploitation: According to US Legal, sexual exploitation is defined as the threatening abuse of one's sexuality, vulnerability, and attractiveness for sexual purposes with the aim of personal gain or profit.

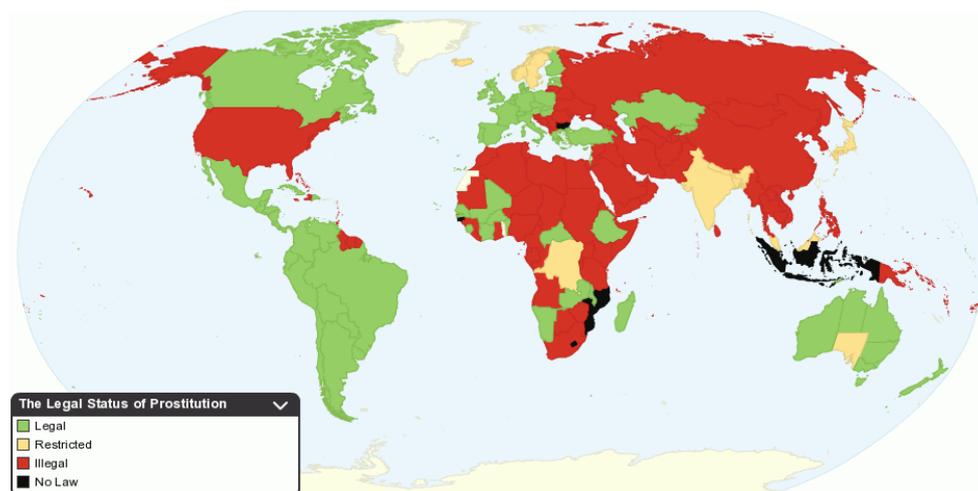
STDs: Sexually Transmitted Disease.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

The sex industry first emerged in Southeast Asia during the early 20th century, as a way for women to support their families and themselves. Some claim the growth is attributed the many military bases located within close proximity to the area, during times of major wars, which created a greater market for the sex industry.

However, as military instalments began to recede from the region, the industry turned its attention to tourists. This led to growth in the tourism sector, however, also rendered governments unwilling to take action against the sex industry, for fear of damaging the growth of the tourism market.

Although unrecognised as an official economic sector, prostitution and commercial sex in Southeast Asia has grown tremendously in the past few decades, especially with increased tourism and travel. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), it has assumed the proportions of a formal commercial sector, one which contributes considerably to national income and employment in the region.



Money Spent on Prostitution

China	\$73 Billion
Spain	\$26.5 Billion
Japan	\$24 Billion

Germany	\$18 Billion
United States	\$14.6 Billion
South Korea	\$12 Billion
India	\$8.4 Billion
Thailand	\$6.4 Billion
Philippines	\$6 Billion
Turkey	\$4 Billion

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

World Vision: World Vision is an international non-profit organisation which plays a key role in combating sex tourism in the Asia Pacific. It's Child Safe Tourism campaign works with governments and communities to prevent children becoming victims of sexual abuse within the tourism sector. World Vision has been active in education, training, and public campaigning in effort to create a more protective tourism environment for children.

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT): ECPAT is an international network of organizations working together with the goal of eliminating the exploitation of children for commercial sex purposes. It has been largely involved with advocacy, on both an international and regional level, and works closely with local organizations and communities, with the end hope of ensuring children's freedom from commercial sex exploitation.

Thailand: Thailand is thought to be the largest sex tourism hub in Southeast Asia, receiving as many as 5 million sex tourists annually. Although not officially legalised, prostitution is often viewed as a societal norm in Thailand.

Cambodia: Cambodia suffers from a widespread child sex tourism problem. This is closely linked with human trafficking and abuse. Despite the prevalence of forced prostitution, sex workers are often stigmatized by society. Hence, it is often difficult for prostitutes to find protection and escape abuse.

The Netherlands: Prostitution in the Netherlands has been legalized since 2000.

Spain: 90% of prostitutes in Spain are illegal immigrants. South American sex workers are now more common than Spanish ones and they represent a greater majority of the sex worker population.

Brazil: Sex tourism is legal in Brazil. However, government will take an action against this issue due to the fact that they are frustrated with the action of child prostitution.

Philippines: Even though it is widely practiced, prostitution is illegal in the Philippines. There is an organized movement to make prostitution a legal activity in the Philippines. By one estimate a half a million women prostitute themselves.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1985	The WTO tourist bill introduced, which calls on the states and individuals to prevent any possibility of the exploitation of prostitution through tourism.
1990	The End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) is formed as a three year campaign, after a tourism consultation in Thailand.
March 1992	ECPAT's first international consultation, held in Thailand. It was agreed that the organization's focus should not be limited to Asia, but should address the international scope of the issue.
1993	The ECPAT campaign is extended for a further three year term
1995	Member states of the WTO adopt the Statement on the Prevention or Organized Sex Tourism
1996	122 governments meet at the First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), as a collaboration between ECPAT, UNICEF and the NGO Group for the Rights of the Child. This congress formed the Stockholm Agenda for Action, and ECPAT received the mandate to evaluate progress at an international level, growing from a regional campaign to a global NGO.
1999	The World Tourism Organization introduces the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.
2001	The WTO Global Code of Ethics is adopted by the UN General Assembly through resolution A/RES/56/212.

CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES

23 June 1993	Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its 18th session.
14 January 1994	Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography : report / submitted by Vitit Muntarbhorn, Special Rapporteur, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/82.
16 April 1998	Draft resolution / Argentina, et al.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE

The Child Sex Tourism Prevention Project, launched in 2004 by the non-governmental organization World Vision, is an awareness-raising campaign in the United States. World Vision has also convened several workshops to fight CST in Cambodia, Thailand and Costa Rica.

ECPAT “Offenders Beware Project” increases awareness and knowledge of sexual exploitation of children in tourism. It also builds capacity for preventive action among tourism professionals, students, security forces and governmental authorities, in cooperation with governments and the tourism industry. “The Childhood Project” is an example of transnational cooperation associating States, INTERPOL, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Vision.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Sex tourism may cause illnesses which can infect by sexual ways such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B/C, Gonorrhoea, Ureaplasma Urealyticum, Syph, Mycoplasma, Chlamdia. most of these illnesses can cause deaths. Delegates should focus on the protections and the organizations which can take care of the rights of the sex tourism victims.

Also the regulation and enforcement of laws in Southeast Asia is a major influence on the increase of sex tourism. To challenge the attitudes of unregistered authorities can be a solution for this issue. When delegates do their research, they should focus on the mechanisms that provides the refund of the criminals.

Sex tourism is one of the easiest way to earn money for less economically developed countries. If delegates can find beneficial ways to develop their economic situation for the countries that derive a profit from sex tourism.

Sex workers, particularly those who have been trafficked or forced to work against their will, often suffer from documented cases of emotional, mental and sexual abuse, which can impact upon the mental well being of the individual. As a result, sometimes, victims may become pregnant from their abusers, or resort to substance abuse and self-harm.

Additionally, here are too many people who don't know what is sex tourism and what it can cause. People should be aware of the effects of sex tourism. Delegates should consider ways in which education and public campaigning could play a role in combating this issue. Which parties should be informed, and on what issues?

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

There are some acronyms that can be useful;

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asia Nations
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA - Child sexual abuse
CSE - Commercial sexual exploitation
CSEC - Commercial sexual exploitation of children
CST - Child sex tourism
HIV - Human immunodeficiency virus
ILO - International Labour Organization
NHRC - National human Rights Commission
UFTAA - Universal Federation of Travel Agent's Association
UNWTO - United Nations World Tourism Organization

Also there are some useful websites to get more information such as;

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://www.ecpat.net/what-we-do>

And If you have any question or missing points you can contact with me by e-mail.

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