



**First European Day on the Protection of Children
against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse – 18 November 2015**

A safer environment for children

In 2007, the 47 Council of Europe member states adopted the Convention on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention). The Lanzarote Convention sets out that states in Europe and beyond¹ shall adopt specific legislation and take measures to prevent sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, to protect child victims and to prosecute perpetrators.

The First Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

The 18th November 2015 marks the first European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. This new European Day aims to:

- raise public awareness of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and the need to prevent such acts;
- facilitate open discussion on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and help prevent and eliminate the stigmatisation of victims;
- promote the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention – a unique legally-binding instrument that obliges European states to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse of children and spells out the ways to fight it.²

As an official observer in the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe, ECPAT welcomes the inauguration of the new European Day and supports its awareness raising video for children (<http://bit.ly/1WtLkn9>). Every child should feel safe to tell someone if they have been a victim of sexual abuse or exploitation. Furthermore, any suspicious situation related to child sexual exploitation or abuse should be reported.

Don't Look Away – report the sexual exploitation of children!

During the last 3 years, ECPAT groups from all over Europe have been collaborating on a project aiming to encourage tourists and travellers as well as the travel and tourism industry to remain vigilant and report situations which may involve the sexual exploitation of a child. Europeans are frequent travellers and surveys show that many travellers have witnessed such situations during a leisure or business trip but did not know how to report the incident. In response, the **International Reporting Platform** www.reportchildsextourism.org was created as part of the aforementioned project to enable the general public to report such situations online. The reporting platform is supported by many national police authorities and by EUROPOL. The **Austrian Reporting Website** www.nicht-wegsehen.at is embedded within the International Reporting Platform.

Furthermore, in order to assist travel and tourism companies that wish to contribute to strengthening child protection in the industry through raising their employees' awareness, ECPAT also created a **Serious Game** to complement the training already provided by many of the ECPAT groups. ECPAT's Serious Game uses an effective, interactive and entertaining methodology to introduce the topic to tourism professionals and students. It is free and available at www.ecpat-serious-game.eu in 8 languages: English, French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Russian, Polish and Bulgarian.

While the *Don't Look Away!* project was a European initiative, research was also conducted together with local partners in five upcoming tourism destinations in Africa (Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa), which have seen sexual exploitation in travel and tourism on the rise. An overall report can be accessed [here](#). The project's other successes include the organisation of several international meetings to share expertise and strategies for tackling the phenomenon, as well as a campaign promoting the International Reporting Platform in all the participating countries.

¹ The Lanzarote Convention is open for signature and ratification by States both within and beyond the Council of Europe.

² http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/News/EuropeanDayPresentation_en.pdf



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Austrian Action Day

„Be aware – also while travelling! Children’s Rights and Child Protection concern us all!” is the slogan of the national action day that is going to be taking place in Austria on November 20th, 2015, International Children’s Rights Day.

At seven locations all over Austria students are organizing flash mobs to raise awareness on the topic of child protection in travel and tourism. The flash mobs are going to be taking place at 2 p.m. Information on children’s rights and child protection are going to be provided in cooperation with Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaften, 147 Rat auf Draht as well as SOS Kinderdorf.

More information is available on the website auf ECPAT Austria www.ecpat.at and on the [Facebook Event Page](#) (both in German language).



Remember, you can report a suspicious situation in travel and tourism here:
www.nicht-wegsehen.at

Contact: Mag.a Astrid Winkler, Mail: info@ecpat.at, Mobile: +43 6991 923 76 02



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