
Background information

All around the world the Code of Conduct has been adopted by countries and its tourism establishments. Tourism is a vehicle for economic development, but brings sex-tourism with it as well. Sadly, children are part of that. In many ways they are pulled or pushed into sexual interactions with tourists and Non-Gambians. The majority are girls, but boys are victims too. Their ages are between 8 and 18. Most suffer from permanent physical and psychological damage, but HIV/AIDS and STD's are known health impacts as well. It damages the image of The Gambia and undermines efforts of Responsible and Sustainable Tourism Development.

Profiles and Methods of Child Sex Tourists in The Gambia are:

Situational Abusers: Individuals who take advantage of the availability of child sex partners at a destination.

Preferential Child Sex Abusers: Individuals who prefer children who have reached or passed puberty as sex objects.

Peadophiles: Individuals who have a true personality disorder, and their sexual interests focus on pre-pubescent children.

There are serious and clear indications that child sexual exploitation and abuse is happening in the Gambian tourism industry. Child Sex Tourists in The Gambia can be of all ages and are here for holidays and do have a residence here. Mostly, they meet children on beaches and in public areas first (entertainment establishments are becoming a meeting place as well). Those meetings can evolve into sexual exploitation/abuse later on, directly or after a particular period. This happens in tourist accommodations and establishments. Therefore and to avoid any case, the Code of Conduct has been adopted and put in force in the Gambian tourism industry.

Increase your knowledge by visiting:

www.thecode.org

www.ecpat.net

www.sayno.eu

www.child-hood.com

Or obtain CPA's Educational Material



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For the Protection of Children From Commercial and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Tourism



For any information, comments, providing more leaflets, or cooperation please contact CPA

CHILD PROTECTION ALLIANCE
Fajara 'M' Section, Bakau

Telephone: (+220) 4498154

E-mail: cpagambia@yahoo.com



Code of Conduct of the Gambia Tourism Authority for the Protection of Children

A partnership between GTA, CPA-ECPAT and all
Tourism Establishments in The Gambia



The Gambia Tourism Authority (GTA) and CPA-ECPAT The Gambia see the following agreed Code of Conduct as an effective instrument with which all Tourism Stakeholders can actively pursue the rights of children and take action against the Sexual Exploitation of Children under the age of 18

—Educational Material 2008—
For those leading and working in and with Tourism Establishments

TOURISM CODE OF CONDUCT

GTA sees recognizing and reacting to social needs as an important part of its business activities, and emphasizes the significance of active social commitment in the tourism sector.

In this way, the Tourism Stakeholders endorse the measures of the tourism and travel industry in cooperation with CPA-ECPAT-Gambia and understand the Code of Conduct as a more concrete and improved development of the “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism” (1999) from the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), regarding active protection for children.

The tourism stakeholders see it as their duty, within the purpose of the Code, to take part in the fight against Sexual Exploitation of Children in The Gambia.

The GTA encourages these agreements of the Tourism Stakeholders and supports the international fight against the Sexual Exploitation of Children.

The Code of Conduct is supported by many statutory achievements in The Gambia, such as the Tourism Offences Act 2003 and the Children’s Act 2005. The Code of Conduct is specifically designed for Tourism Establishments, such as hotels, resorts, guesthouses and all other kinds of tourist accommodations, tour-operators and other companies serving tourists.

Since 2004 the ‘Gambianised’ Code of Conduct is adopted by many tourism establishments in The Gambia. Each establishment commits itself by this to six tasks, as such it is a self-regulatory instrument. This leaflet is to inform you about those tasks. In the following the tasks are given including explanations.

By this, your knowledge about the Code of Conduct will be increased. When your tourism establishment signed the Code of Conduct, you will be more able to implement it.

WHAT IS SIGNED FOR

Tourism establishments commits themselves to this Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism and undertake to:

1

INFORM AND PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF EMPLOYEES, BASED ON THE FOLDER COMPLIED BY GTA TOGETHER WITH CPA-ECPAT-GAMBIA;

2

INCLUDE CLAUSES IN OUR CONTRACTS, AND OTHER SUITABLE MEASURES DISPLAYING A UNANIMOUS REJECTION OF THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;

3

PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF CUSTOMERS THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLET;

4

INCLUDE CHILD PROTECTION AS SUBJECT IN TRAINING EMPLOYEES;

5

CONSIDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT WHEN LAYING DOWN BUSINESS PRINCIPLES;

6

SUBMIT YEARLY REPORTS TO CPA-ECPAT-GAMBIA ON THE STEPS TAKEN CONCERNING THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

EXPLANATION

The **first** commitment refers to the educational materials which is supplied by CPA in 2008. Your tourism establishment can educate your staff by this. More information will and can be provided.

The **second** commitment refers to adding your rejection of child sexual exploitation when contracts are established with partners and suppliers, like a Tour Wholesaler. Contracts has to be cancelled or revised when the partner or supplier did not meet the conditions related to your repudiation of sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

The **third** commitment refers to informing your guests and customers about rejecting child sexual exploitation in your establishments. This can be done by room-directories, catalogues, brochures, websites, etcetera.

The **fourth** commitment refers to adding child protection in your training manuals or requiring knowledge on child protection issues in tourism when employing new staff-members.

The **fifth** commitment refers to considering your rejection of child sexual exploitation when new policies in your establishment are designed. Consider all criteria of the Code of Conduct.

The **sixth** commitment refers to a yearly evaluation of the Code of Conduct within your establishemnt. This evaluation is submitted to CPA-ECPAT-Gambia and includes all implementation practices of each commitment of the Code of Conduct in that year, your experience in doing so, action plan for the coming year and your personal views, ideas and contributions related to fighting child sexual exploitation in The Gambia.

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