



2019 ANNUAL REPORT





contents

- 2** Who We Are
- 4** Letter from the Executive Director
- 5** Youth Education
- 7** Private Sector Engagement
- 9** Legislative Advocacy
- 12** 2019 at a Glance
- 13** Staff and Board of Directors
- 14** Financials

WHO WE ARE

ECPAT-USA is the leading policy organization in the United States seeking to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children through awareness, advocacy, education, and legislation.

ECPAT-USA is a member of the ECPAT International network, with offices in over 100 countries sharing one common mission: to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children around the world.

WHAT WE DO



POLICY ADVOCACY

We advocate for federal and state policies that prevent exploitation, protect children, and guarantee that any child who is subjected to sex trafficking will not be prosecuted in the courts for prostitution.



YOUTH EDUCATION

We empower youth to take the lead against human trafficking by equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to stay safe and help them become activists against this terrible trade.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

We educate citizens about the problem of child sex trafficking so that they can identify victims and join us in the fight to protect children.



PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

We ensure companies incorporate measures to protect children in their business structures.



MISSION

To protect every child's human right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Letter from **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Lori L. Cohen

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the 2019 ECPAT-USA Annual Report. Joining this inspiring organization in 2019's closing months has allowed me to reflect on the visionary path forged by my predecessor, Carol Smolenski, and the committed team that she assembled. Over 28 years ago, ECPAT-USA was launched as the first organization in this nation to tackle the commercial sexual exploitation of children. We've made significant strides by advancing legislation that identifies children as victims - not criminals - in need of services, by pushing for statutes to hold accountable internet platforms that knowingly sell children online for sex, and by collaborating with ECPAT International to develop The Code, a set of principles and resources to support the private sector in eliminating child sex trafficking and online exploitation in their industries.

This past year saw an expansion in ECPAT-USA's outreach and education for young people through our innovative Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) program. Identifying schools in which students may be at higher risk for recruitment and exploitation, Y-ACT offers interactive workshops in online safety, healthy relationships (romantic and platonic) and sex trafficking awareness. Students demonstrated marked increases of awareness of the risks posed by online recruiting tactics and learned how to navigate both the internet and interpersonal relationships safely. Equally important, these young people joined ECPAT-USA as advocates, teaching their classmates and speaking at forums that ranged from school assemblies to the United Nations.

We also experienced a deepened commitment from our corporate partners this year. Through the launch of our new e-learning for travel professionals, more companies now have access to tools and trainings that will help them incorporate anti-trafficking efforts into their work. Our Unpacking Human Trafficking report, which launched in May, compiled all the applicable legislation currently in effect concerning anti-trafficking training and signage for the hotel industry. This report has already proven to be an extremely valuable tool for the lodging industry and will be regularly updated to ensure that it remains as up-to-date as possible.

2019 witnessed a shift in public opinion and awareness of trafficking, leading to the arrest and demise of high-profile pedophiles. Similarly, a series of ill-advised legislative initiatives seeking to decriminalize all aspects of the commercial sex trade, with a resulting free pass to those who buy and sell young people for sex, failed resoundingly. While child sex trafficking and online exploitation continue to pose ongoing challenges, momentum for child protection is building. Thanks to your support, ECPAT-USA will continue to be at the forefront of this fight, working to protect every child's human right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Youth Education (Y-ACT Program)

ECPAT-USA developed our Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) program with the goal of preventing child trafficking through youth education and empowerment. In doing so, Y-ACT is designed to teach, mobilize, and develop the leadership skills of young people. The program trains youth to be the voices of their communities advocating against the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Our interactive, skills-based curriculum utilizes a holistic, trauma-informed approach. Through facilitated workshops and guided conversations, middle school and high school students throughout New York City learn about the reality of child sexual exploitation in their communities, how they can protect themselves, and what they can do to raise awareness about the issue.

This year was a remarkable year for Y-ACT students.

Advocacy

For the fifth consecutive year, Y-ACT student leaders participated in the Girls Stand Up to Stop Sexual Violence panel during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. This panel was remarkable as it also featured ECPAT-USA Survivors' Council member Barbara Amaya, a policy expert and survivor of sexual exploitation. Ms. Amaya is an award-winning advocate, speaker, trainer, and author of the Amazon best selling memoir *Nobody's Girl* and the graphic novel *The Destiny of Zoe Carpenter*. The panelists elucidated strategies to support the anti-sex trafficking movement, factors increasing girls' susceptibility to traffickers, and recommendations to combat these tactics by encouraging young girls to be confident, bold advocates for themselves and their peers.

Service

Y-ACT co-sponsored our sister trafficking organization, Saving Jane, in its end-of-summer cultural bash for under-served youth in NYC. After months of working with producers, cast, and crew, we helped to present a free performance of the interactive, acclaimed musical *OSCAR at The Crown* for young people who are homeless, survivors of human trafficking, LGBTQ, immigrant, in recovery, and other under-served populations in NYC. The immersive musical includes singing, dancing, and moving stage platforms – all happening inches from the crowd. Over 25 youth organizations, bringing over 100 at-risk young people, attended the show and after-performance workshop.

Activism

Students from our Y-ACT clubs at Brooklyn Technical High School and Stuyvesant High School raised funds and conducted clothing and food drives to benefit anti-trafficking organizations. Students at Poly Prep Country Day School created bracelets for survivors of trafficking, wrote letters to encourage Congressional support for anti-trafficking legislation, and wrote notes to encourage travel and tourism organizations to become a part of The Code, a series of ECPAT-developed recommendations to reduce trafficking vulnerabilities in business. These Y-ACT-trained youth leaders were honored with the Next Generation award at ECPAT-USA's annual Freedom Awards gala.

Y-ACT reached 1,454 students in public and private schools and non-profit organizations throughout NYC and NJ. Testing conducted before and after the workshops for material comprehension showed a 26% overall increase in knowledge acquired about child trafficking.

Student participants also were encouraged to provide feedback on the workshop. 64% of students were interested in raising awareness about child sex trafficking, 68% would share their new knowledge about healthy relationships with peers, and 60% said they would use their new knowledge about online safety in their personal lives. These data demonstrate student attraction to this subject.

The following comments from participants demonstrate how important and valuable students find this type of prevention education programming.



“You never really get to hear people talking about sex-trafficking, it's more slipped under the rug. I believe everyone should do a workshop like this”

—
FEMALE, 16

“I like that we had plenty of our questions answered and were given respect and the right to an opinion”

—
MALE, 16

“I love how we talked about what will happen if you do something and enlighten us on what not to do and what to stay away from. Hopefully, we have more workshops like this.”

—
FEMALE, 15

“I think learning about this kind of thing is good because if you're getting abused you would see the signs of abuse and know what to do.”

—
FEMALE, 14

“I like this because it's real in a lot of cases people think they have power over you”

—
FEMALE, 14

“I liked today's workshop it put things into view, even the nitty-gritty of sex trafficking”

—
FEMALE, 17

“Today the thing I was told was very informative. I learned what it means to trust someone. I learned about how to leave unhealthy relationships”

—
MALE, 18

“I really like this presentation because it helps me learn a little bit more about the risks of social media.”

—
MALE, 14



Private Sector Engagement

In 2019, ECPAT-USA's corporate engagement reached previously untapped areas of the travel and tourism industry. Through our new anti-trafficking training, *Preventing & Responding to Human Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children - An E-Learning by ECPAT-USA*, and the associated #20BY20 campaign, we developed partnerships with travel management professionals, corporate travel managers, and those in the meeting and events industry.

This year, we also published two new reports about sex trafficking and the travel industry, *Unpacking Human Trafficking A Survey of State Laws Targeting Human Trafficking in the Hospitality Industry* and *Stamping Out Exploitation in Travel*. Both serve as resources for hotels by including information on how to best comply with state anti-trafficking training and signage legislation, establishing ways to measure progress, and highlighting best practices for cross-learning within the travel industry.

ECPAT-USA also partnered with 13 new companies through The Code in 2019, bringing the total to 57 U.S. members.



UNPACKING HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

In recent years, an increasing number of states have passed legislation requiring lodging facilities to combat human trafficking. These laws take various forms and present an array of requirements that may seem confusing to owners and operators of lodging facilities seeking compliance.

To help demystify the legal landscape, ECPAT-USA “unpacked” these laws by surveying applicable legislation currently in effect concerning anti-trafficking training and signage required in all 50 states, as well as in five other U.S. jurisdictions. This report will continue to be updated on a semi-annual basis and was possible through the financial support of the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Foundation.

What is The Code?

The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (The Code) is the world's first and only voluntary set of business principles travel and tour companies can implement to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. The Code provides awareness, tools, and support to the travel and hospitality industry. The Code is a joint venture between the tourism private sector and ECPAT International. Companies that endorse The Code are supported by ECPAT-USA to:

1. Establish a corporate policy and procedures against sexual exploitation of children.
2. Train employees in children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation, and how to report suspected cases.
3. Include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children.
4. Provide information to travelers on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation of children, and how to report suspected cases.
5. Support, collaborate, and engage stakeholders in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children.
6. Report annually on the company's implementation of Code-related activities.

THE CODE AT A GLANCE



2004

THE YEAR
LAUNCHED IN
NORTH AMERICA



13

COMPANIES
JOINED THE CODE
IN 2019



57

TOTAL NUMBER OF
CODE MEMBERS IN
THE U.S.

Legislative Advocacy

ECPAT-USA aims to change federal and state laws through comprehensive engagement with a broad spectrum of lawmakers who share our mission for child protection. Drawing on our deep expertise, ECPAT-USA partners with government, survivors, and advocates to ensure that legislation is comprehensive, proactive, and victim-centered. Bills that ECPAT-USA co-sponsored this year include the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Training Act, the Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act, and reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

Together with The American Hotel And Lodging Association (AHLA), we worked closely with Congressman Chris Smith on H.R. 1427, legislation that would provide signage, training, and preferred hotels for federal employees. This legislation, while still being drafted, will serve as the foundation for training hotel staff on identifying victims of trafficking, provide the necessary signage for posting in all hotels, and prohibit federal employees from staying at a hotel that does not meet the federal standards specified in the bill.

ECPAT-USA also engaged with Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, Congressman Vern Buchanan, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Congressman Greg Steube to draft H.R. 4388, the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Training Act. If enacted, this important legislation will provide \$25 million for a pilot program to train educators and students on how to identify trafficking and exploitation, especially online. ECPAT-USA worked closely with the bipartisan authors to ensure the legislation incorporated best practices as informed by our successful Y-ACT program.

With ECPAT-USA's endorsement, Congressman Mike McCaul and Congressman Henry Cuellar introduced H.R. 836, the Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act. H.R. 836 would increase the availability of Interdiction for Protection of Children (IPC) training that was pioneered by the Texas Department of Public Safety. It requires the Attorney General to establish a pilot program to provide training to federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals on identifying children exploited and trafficked for sex. Senator John Cornyn and Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto introduced the Senate companion legislation.

While ECPAT-USA believes that partnership with our political leaders can lead to significant protections for children, it is imperative for us to speak out against policies that jeopardize their safety. In 2019, we led a public campaign calling for the immediate removal of Labor Secretary Alex Acosta when reports surfaced of his infamous sweetheart plea deal with accused pedophile Jeffrey Epstein. And when the United States gave itself a top-tier ranking for compliance with anti-trafficking protocols, ECPAT-USA issued a sharp condemnation of the expanded federal program that separates migrant children and toddlers from their parents at the U.S. border, putting those children at significant risk for trafficking and exploitation.



“

Drawing on our deep expertise, ECPAT-USA partners with government, survivors, and advocates to ensure that legislation is comprehensive, proactive, and victim-centered.”

In September, ECPAT-USA joined over 170 other NGOs in testifying before the D.C. District Council as they moved to vote on a bill that would decriminalize all aspects of the commercial sex industry, including brothel-keeping, pimping, and patronizing, in the District of Columbia. While the advocates for “full decriminalization” claimed that the bill would provide protections for children, in fact, it failed to do so and instead would have created a dangerous and exploitative environment for youth. As a visible and vocal opponent of the bill, ECPAT-USA urged the D.C. District Council to address the crisis of trafficking in the District by creating supportive housing, educational opportunities, job training, accessible health care, and counseling for young people. ECPAT-USA’s testimony focused on the particular vulnerabilities of our nation’s LGBTQ+ youth, citing statistics that underlined their disproportionate levels of trafficking victimization among runaway and homeless children. In response, the D.C. District Council chose not to move forward with this ill-conceived bill, a victory for children everywhere.

ECPAT-USA firmly holds that all children deserve a fundamental right to safety, most notably those whose voices are often silenced and who are therefore most in need of protection.



Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Working Group

ECPAT-USA proudly spearheaded the launch of the CSAM Working Group. Made up of several stakeholders, the CSAM working group meets regularly to provide strategic input to members of Congress on the need for strong laws aimed towards combating child sexual images. Also, because the CSAM working group is new, the mission and membership is evolving to include law enforcement, Congressional representation, and specific NGO input.

Public Conversations Report

ECPAT-USA partnered with AHLA to launch the Public Conversations Report for Congress. The report is a tool-kit for members of Congress on how to address child exploitation and trafficking when it happens in their Congressional district. ECPAT-USA and AHLA are drafting a proposal to provide the Public Conversations training for specific Congressional districts in 2020.

TIMELINE

2019 AT A GLANCE



Board of Directors

Sharon Appelman

Esther Bernstein

Adrian Dannhauser

Eric Jacobs

Johna Johnson

Natalie Volin Lehr

Michael Lettera

Iryna Makuruk

Faiza Mathon-Mathieu

Jason Matthews

Deb Morea

Sherrie Murphy

Sydney Rose

Joshua Rubin

Jackie Shapiro, Chair

Elisabeth Shuman

Karen Weiss

Survivors' Council

Barbara Amaya

Shanifa Bennett

Autumn Burris

Joel Fillmore

Iryna Makaruk

Katrina Owens

Kate Price

Holly Smith

Staff

Carol Smolenski *Executive Director*

Lori L Cohen *Incoming Executive Director*

Michelle Guelbart *Director of Private Sector Engagement*

Joe Huang-Racalto *Director of Public Policy and Government Relations*

Kyra Wooden *Youth Outreach Manager*

Linda McLaughlin *Director of Development*

Carla Licavoli *Director of Operations*

Emily Becker *Director of Digital Content*

Kristine Adams *Private Sector Engagement Manager*

2019 Financial Statement

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 936,151
Investments	101,676
Promises to give:	
without donor restrictions	101,752
with donor restrictions	23,000
Program revenue receivable	-
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	44,107
Furniture and equipment, net of allowances for depreciation	5,460
Security deposit	2,450

Total Assets

\$ 1,414,596

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Grants payable	\$ 153,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	49, 676

Total Liabilities

\$ 202,676

Commitments and contingencies

Net assets:	
without donor restrictions	1,136,635
with donor restrictions	75,285

Total Net Assets

1,211,920

Total Liabilities & Net assets

\$ 1,414,596

Changes in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions

Public Support and Revenue	
Contributions	\$ 660,385
In-kind contributions	16,750
Interest	5,927
Program fees	188,763
Unrealized gains	-
Other revenue	26,017
Total Revenues and Gains without Donor Restrictions	675,651
Net assets released from restrictions	
Satisfaction of time and program restrictions	467,944

Total Public Support and Revenue**\$1,365,786****EXPENSES**

Program Services	
Public education	\$ 817,767
Supporting Services	
Management and general	73,038
Fundraising	147,172
Total Supporting Services	220,210
Total Expenses	1,037,977
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets without donor restrictions	327.809

Changes in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

Contributions	535,650
Net Assets released from restriction	(467,944)
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets with donor restrictions	67,706
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	395,515
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	816,405

Net Assets, End of Year**\$ 1,211,920**





Protecting every child's
human right to grow up free
from the threat of sexual
exploitation and trafficking.



30 Third Avenue, Suite 800A
Brooklyn, NY 11217
718-935-9192
www.ecpatusa.org
info@ecpatusa.org
Twitter: @ecpatusa
Facebook: @ecpatusa
Instagram: @ecpatusa