

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Forum: | Human Rights Council |
| Issue: | Combatting the human rights abuses in sex tourism industries |
| Student Officer: | Teresa Chen |
| Position: | President |

Introduction

When it trespasses the boundaries of the laws and legal infrastructures designed to supervise it, the sex tourism industry inevitably risks humanitarian abuse and exploitation.

Sex tourism is the practice of traveling to a foreign country solely for the purposes of participating in sexual activity or soliciting prostitution. While sex tourism usually takes place in countries that have formally legalized prostitution, societies where it is outlawed but highly tolerated and informally regulated also have mature and deeply entrenched sex tourism industries.

When proper laws governing the legal patronization of sex work are not respected, and especially because the morally dubious and potentially exploitative nature of prostitution industries often leads its customers to seek untraceable means of payment or some form of anonymity, several human rights and ethical concerns arise. First, there is generally a significant economic disparity between the tourists who patronize sex work industries and local sex workers, which leaves alarming room for exploitation and manipulation. There often exists an unspoken and incredibly coercive expectation that, for citizens in impoverished communities, sex services is the only viable profession to provide for basic necessities. Second, the profitability of sex work in many sex tourism destinations has given rise to elaborate transnational sex trafficking networks; most despicably, the victims of these trafficking networks are typically women and, especially, children. The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) recognizes sex tourism as a key enabler of international human trafficking and slavery. Regardless, even when legal, sex work and sex tourism are routinely weaponized against the most disenfranchised and vulnerable segments of society, either through explicit and illegal coercion or external pressures.

Sex work is often dubbed as the oldest profession in human history. The nature of the global prostitution industry poses several unique obstacles to the resolution of the humanitarian issues listed in the above paragraph. First, prostitution is extremely profitable. While it is difficult to gauge the true scope

of the global sex work as prostitution is still generally regarded as a taboo profession and informal or non-monetary payment is common, the global sex work industry is estimated to make around 200 billion USD per year.. The financial dependence on sex work in countless countries worldwide, whether in terms of its role in supporting local economies or individual families, makes governments reluctant to strictly legislate on and regulate it as an industry. An even greater cause for concern is individuals' willingness to continue providing sex services and patronizing prostitution houses in spite of laws prohibiting it. Secondly, seeing as sex tourism is a transnational problem by definition, the fact that countries around the world have different restrictions on sex work, different ages of majority, and different extradition laws, acts of sex tourism are rarely prosecuted even when they are brought to light. There are currently no global mechanisms designed for the investigation and prosecution of abuses committed during sex tourism across borders. Lastly, perhaps the most immutable and pernicious issue of concern is the shocking degree of cultural acceptance of sex tourism in underdeveloped communities. As mentioned, prostitution is often seen as the only viable profession for disenfranchised families. High degrees of acceptance in communities of prostitution has led to lowered precautions against potential abuses committed within the sex work industry as well as the normalization of otherwise exploitative or harmful sex practices.

Definition of Key Terms

Sex tourism

The act of traveling to a foreign country with the explicit goal of engaging in sexual activities or services there, or the global industry built off of this act.

Prostitution

The occupation of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for formal and/or informal payment, also known as sex work.

Pornography

A genre of visual media with explicit depictions of sexual imagery or activity. Most frequently, this involves photos and videos of an erotic nature.

Sex trafficking

A form of human trafficking—the trade and smuggling of humans for some commercial purpose—and modern slavery specifically for the sake of sexual exploitation.

Sexual exploitation

The intended manipulation and abuse of a victim's position of vulnerability, financial or in other ways related to the relative power and position of the perpetrator, to obtain from them sexual favors.

Sexual abuse

The act of perpetrating or threatening a non-consensual physical act of a sexual nature.

Sexpats/Sexpatriates

A slang portmanteau of the words “sex” and “expat/expatriate”, referring to sex tourists, primarily men, who share their experience of sex tourism at given destinations online and often make recommendations of potential destinations to others.

Adult-only resorts

A type of resort or hotel establishment reserved only for travelers above the age of majority that encourages sexual activity between patrons; often, these resorts are seen as an alternative to paid sex and engaging in prostitution in foreign countries, which some travelers may take ethical issues with.

Child sex tourism (CST)

Sex tourism involving children as the providing party of sex work—this is a crime in most countries, and while travelers may not specifically seek out minors for sex tourism, they take advantage of lacking oversight in international prostitution and perpetuate the trafficking and abuse of children in them.

Sexually transmitted infection (STI)

Diseases and infections that are transmitted through sexual activities such as oral and penetrative intercourse, which are commonly transmitted in sex work, especially when proper safety and sanitation precautions are not or cannot be taken.

Red light district

An area within a town or city known for having many sex businesses, including brothels, prostitution houses, and strip clubs.

Brothel

An establishment where clients can seek sexual services from prostitutes.

Escort agency

An agency that manages the day-to-day business of prostitutes, such as through organizing meetups with paying clients and determining the contractual limits of prostitutes’ work. It is widely believed that working with an escort agency is relatively safer and offers more benefits, such as regular reproductive health checkups.

Female sex tourism

Sex tourism by women traveling to foreign countries to engage in sexual relations with locals. As female sex tourism happens at far lower frequency in comparison to sex tourism involving male travelers, and female sex tourism seems to take on different characteristics and revolve around different incentives (ie. traveling to seek romantic relationships instead of solely sexual ones), female sex tourism is recognized as a separate phenomenon and problem.

Romance tourism

Tourism in a foreign country for the sake of beginning a romantic or similarly intimate relationship. While romance tourism often coincides with sex tourism, travelers who travel for romance reject the transactional nature of paid sex relations and prefer the gray area of a less defined relationship.

Sexual grooming/Grooming

Actions or behavior carried out by an adult intended to establish an emotional connection with a minor that lowers the minor's inhibitions in regards to participating in sexual behaviors with the adult.

Background

While prostitution is often known as the oldest profession known to humanity, the cultural practice of sex tourism likely finds its roots in the early 18th Century.

For the purposes of this report, research on the spread of prostitution worldwide as well as prostitution as an enshrined cultural practice will be included only as it relates to sex tourism. However, note that, due to prostitution industry often forming in response to tourist interest in a region, many abuses and critical issues commonly faced by workers in this industry reflect many of the problems caused by sex tourism.

18th Century: Colonialism and exploitation

At the height of European imperial expeditions and missions around the world, the earliest instances of sex tourism could arguably be attributed to European colonists. After the Seven Years' War and the denouement of European colonial influence in North America, European imperial powers set their sights on Asia and parts of Africa as the next destination for colonization.

In the wake of this new interest, there was little public awareness across Europe surrounding the culture and peoples in Asia and Africa. The speculation that this ignorance inevitably led to the sexualization of minorities in those soon-to-be colonized regions.

Orientalism and racialized sexual desire

At this point in time, European countries referred to all countries to the east of Europe and the western world as "the Orient". Early attempts at characterizing and stereotyping all of the diverse cultures within the vague geographical region of the Orient were inevitably very reductive and warped—the collection of these perceptions and stereotypes, especially in their use as a defense for colonial pursuits and attitudes, is known as *orientalism*, or the heavily clichéd representation of eastern people and civilizations.

While different orientalist ideas vary vastly, orientalism took the general stance that easterners, in comparison to their western counterparts, were lazy, passive, and largely weak and malleable because of their intellectual inferiority and primitive nature. Overall, orientalist

attitudes were used to justify the forceful conquering, cultural cleansing, and cultural assimilation practices of colonialism. More specifically, they also generated stereotypes about Asian people that greatly sexualized them and made them vulnerable to sexual exploitation by western colonists.

Colonial sex tourism and the fetishization of minorities

One example of how orientalism exoticized and sexualized Asian cultures and people was its view on Northern Africans.

From the 1750s, orientalist thought often focused on the baselessly speculated “Arabic sexual perversity” of North African civilizations. This factored into the sexual desires of the colonists touring North African regions as part of imperial expeditions; for example, many German colonizers saw ventures into North Africa as an opportunity for same-sex sexual relations because they assumed Arabic locals to be more inclined to sexual taboos at the time, such as homosexuality.

It is important to note that orientalist attitudes differed across time and place. However, racialized sexual desire and the fetishization of specific ethnicities and minority cultures are still important factors in sex work industries today and act as key drivers for sex tourism, which, by name, involves traveling to different cultures for sex.

19th and 20th Centuries: A transforming problem

Throughout the 19th Century, sex tourism continued to be a minor interest for western colonists, alongside colonialism and imperialism. What imperial and military ventures took place in foreign countries at this time also took advantage of local brothels, which were often willing to provide services to westerners in exchange for resources and utilities—very notably, in the late 1800s, the British army in India was discovered to be supplying Indian brothels with medical supplies, lighting, and water. Sex tourism continued in this fashion through this century, though at a lower frequency. It was not until increased globalization and the western-led military interventions of the 20th Century that the very nature and prevalence of sex tourism changed form.

The growth of the tourism industry

Since the turn of the 20th Century, the mounting wealth of western countries allowed western aristocrats and social elites to travel to foreign countries solely for the sake of leisure. This practice laid the foundation for the modern international tourism industry. As a general summary, tourists from wealthier countries had the means and motivation to visit developing countries and the minority communities within them, which were often the victims of exoticizing and fetishistic stereotypes. While little record of sex tourism exists, it can be assumed that it took

place, given the ability of wealthy travelers to exploit locals as well as harmful racist stereotypes and the cultural dynamics between the rich, often white solicitor and the minority sex worker.

Foreign military interventions

It is commonly argued that the rise of sex tourism and prostitution in Southeast Asian nations like Thailand and Vietnam was in part due to the presence of foreign military soldiers on leave or after discharge. Massage parlors—often a more discreet venue for participating in paid sex, or simply brothels in disguise—were often found in close vicinity of foreign military bases. Aside from tourism, military intervention was a primary means by which westerners entered foreign countries in the developing world. Very notably, American military tours in various countries around the world historically coincided with the beginning of sex tourism industries in those countries: This accounts for sex tourism in the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam, and other such destinations of American military intervention. American soldiers would require forms of relaxation and recreation when not on duty, and as a result, the entertainment sector, in part made of up sex work, boomed in areas close to American military bases. One notable example is Onlongapo in the Philippines.

In summary, military interventions are always accompanied by westerners migrating to foreign countries for a time, and sex tourism industries often form in response to orientalist attitudes or otherwise racialized sexual preferences held by western foreigners. Nonetheless, it is important to note that, despite stereotypes of cities in Vietnam and the Philippines being seedy hubs of prostitution, other regions where sex tourism has taken hold and grown rapidly, such as various parts of Kenya and western European countries like the Netherlands, have not had the same histories of military intervention.

Sex tourism today: Key characteristics and issues of concern

It is important to note that sex tourism is a cross-cultural practice—it is not a formally defined international industry, but instead a global network of local prostitution industries patronized by foreign tourists. The previous sub-sections identified key developments in foreign relations and international trade over the past two centuries that laid the foundation for sex tourism and associated attitudes as we know them today. On this basis, sex tourism has grown and spread internationally as a leisurely practice, especially for patrons from wealthy western countries.

As sex tourism enters the 21st Century, it has taken on new unique characteristics that present a more nuanced and expansive set of challenges countries must work together to address.

The advent of the internet and organized sex tours

Without a doubt, the widespread accessibility of the internet has accelerated the development of sex tourism as a culturally sanctioned practice in many developed countries.

The internet is typically utilized by the sex tourism industry in two ways. First, escort agencies are able to take advantage of websites as a primary mode of communication with customers in wealthy countries. Before the sex tourist arrives at their vacation spot, they can arrange for an escort in advance—like this, the internet has streamlined and corporatized prostitution worldwide. Second, in the Information Age, tourists have the freedom of perusing public lists of the bests locales for soliciting sex work, which has driven the demand for sex tourism through the roof.

As a result, the ready availability of information and communication through the internet has exponentially enlarged the scale of global sex tourism in the short span of the past two decades. Because of this, the issues that used to be faced by a small but vulnerable minority now affect a far bigger population, a change that took place seemingly overnight.

The exploitation of dependency relationships in developing contexts

In any discussion concerning the legality and legitimacy of sex work, the issue of consent is critical. With sex tourism, even in cases where sex workers explicitly consent to providing sex services, it is crucial to note the extenuating circumstances that may have coerced them into doing so.

Firstly, as mentioned earlier, in especially impoverished communities, prostitution is culturally enforced as the most profitable or the only means by which people, specifically women, can provide for themselves and their families. Entering sex work out of necessity blurs the lines of consent, when it is impossible to prove that sex workers would have still chosen sex work without financial pressure to do so. Similarly, financial stress is also a major reason an individual may coerce or heavily encourage their spouse into providing sex work as another source of income. Additionally, vulnerable individuals can be exploited in other ways to join sex work. For example, a police investigation in Mallorca, Spain, found that a substantial population of the prostitutes there were trafficked and brought to Spain under various false pretexts, then forced into prostitution to pay off debts and attain freedom. In fact, up to 95% of prostitutes in Spain are undocumented immigrants who are legally unable to get regular work.

Any case where sex workers are heavily dependent on their profession, whether financially or otherwise, is incredibly dangerous: This gives sex tourists the ability to breach their spoken consent, escape payment, or violate whatever regulations do exist on prostitution in some other way, as sex workers often have no alternatives and, therefore, no ability to say no. When sex workers cannot exercise their right to withdraw, they cannot meaningfully consent—whatever sexual activity happens without the pretext of consent is rape, in effect. This must be addressed

through holistically assessing the reasons sex workers feel as though they have no alternatives to prostitution and forming solutions accordingly.

Addressing global sex trafficking

Currently, sexual exploitation is the primary goal of global trafficking and slave trade, where sex trafficking accounts for up to 79% of all known cases of human trafficking.

Most disturbingly, around 20% of all sex trafficking victims are children. In the Mekong region of Southeast Asia as well as certain parts of Africa, children make up a majority of trafficking victims.

Generally, sex traffickers take advantage of the various vulnerabilities victims may have to force them into foreign sex work. This could be exploiting the poverty of victims and their need for work, exploiting their legal immigration status in a country and the fact that they are unable to find work in traditional industries, or otherwise threatening or blackmailing victims into entering sex work. Over time, trafficking has become a globally connected industry and supported the international slave trade.

In relation to sex tourism, sex trafficking is extremely commonplace in countries that attract rampant sex tourism, as the trafficking and trade of non-consenting victims helps fulfill domestic demand for sex workers.

The alarming rise of child sex tourism

Participating in sex with minors, regardless of what conditions precede or allow for it, regardless of how perpetrators attempt to justify it, is rape. Minors cannot meaningfully consent to sex with an adult. In almost all countries, this is assumed true, and sex with minors is criminally prosecutable as statutory rape.

However, despite what is seemingly a global consensus on what legal protections should exist for minors against rape and exploitation, child sex tourism (CST) has inevitably grown more commonplace as a type of sex tourism. Similar to how trafficking usually takes place, children are exploited into participating in sex work either through direct coercion and threats or a period of grooming, where an adult will manipulate the child into a trusting relationship under false pretenses and then take advantage of the child's trust. Sex crimes against children are so frequently committed by tourists in foreign countries because of weaker laws and legal consequences, weaker law enforcement, or lower ages of majority in foreign countries. Often, proper channels for the extradition of perpetrators also do not exist between the country where the crime was committed and the perpetrator's home country.

CST threatens the lives of the children who are victimized by it and deteriorates their physical and mental health. Survivors of CST will often need to live with extensive trauma and

other psychological conditions. It is crucial to note that, although sex tourism itself walks the boundary of moral and legal legitimacy, CST is always reprehensible and must not be tolerated.

Effective domestic and transnational regulation of sex tourism

With the question of sex tourism, countries often find themselves at an important crossroads: to legalize or not to legalize. The common criticism with legalizing prostitution is that it allows prostitution industries to sustain—the existence of prostitution, especially in its relation to other cultural issues like marital infidelity and the exploitation of women, is morally outrageous to many people in itself. On the other hand, it is generally believed that legalization allows governments to further regulate sex work and prevent against humanitarian abuse.

In the Netherlands, as sex work is legal, the government has political pretext to fund and offer reproductive health checkups to prostitutes. Given legalization, governments would also incur the legal responsibility of properly regulating and monitoring prostitution. These regulations could possibly include measures to investigate and prosecute sex trafficking, as well as tougher legal punishments for the exploitation and abuse of sex workers that formerly occurred with impunity.

Major Parties Involved

Thailand

Like many other hubs of sex tourism mentioned and not mentioned in this report, prostitution remains illegal in Thailand. However, the country has long since developed an economic dependence on sex work—arguably, the roots of prostitution in Thailand stretch all the way back to the Vietnam War, when increased military presence across Southeast Asia sparked the rise of sex work and sex tourism in various Southeast Asian countries. Additionally, while law enforcement also acknowledges this problem of dependence and is consequently reluctant to strictly punish prostitution, Thailand suffers from weak law enforcement and rule of law in general, the root cause being in part high degrees of police corruption. Most of the sex workers in Thailand are from lower-income rural areas. Moreover, up to 40% of these sex workers are minors, with child sex trafficking being a critical concern for the Thai government.

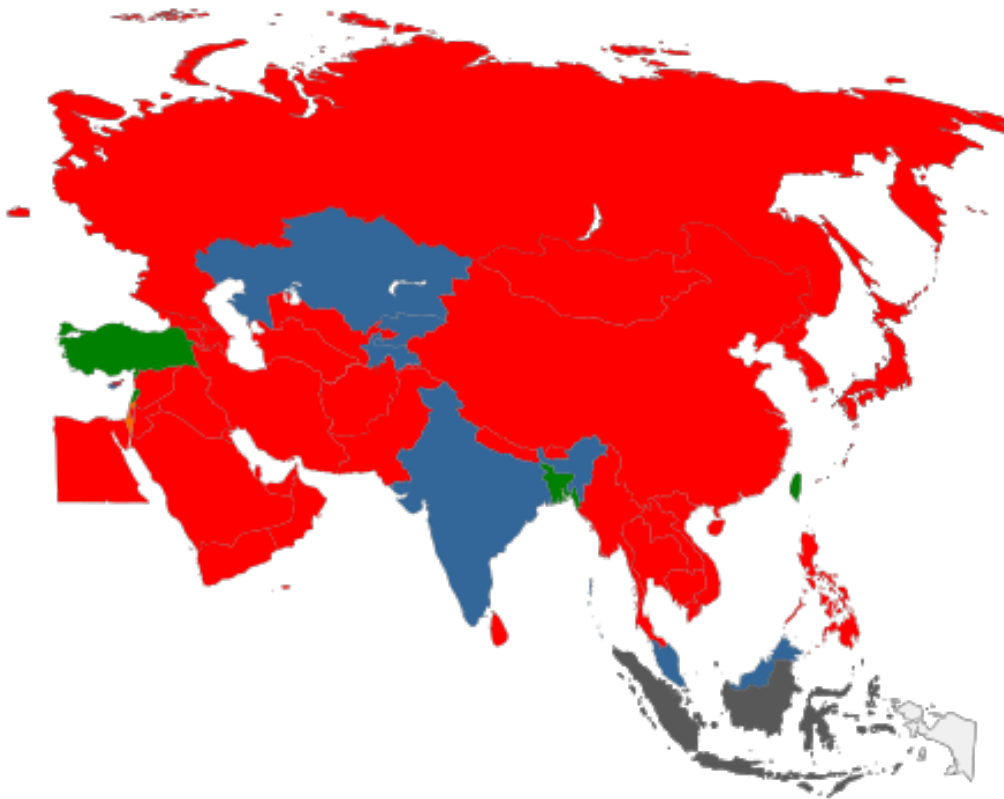
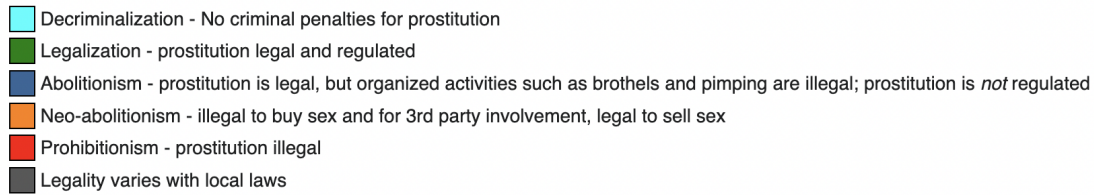


Figure 1: Legality of prostitution across Asian countries (Wikipedia)

As a general reminder, sex tourism is particularly prevalent across Asia and in the Caribbean, with some sex tourism hubs in western and northwestern Europe as well. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the countries where sex tourism is most pervasive do not necessarily match with the legality of prostitution in these areas.

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, sex work is both legal and well-regulated, with specific mechanisms to regulate against human rights abuses and organized crime, such as human trafficking. It is also legal to own a brothel. As a result, Amsterdam is an internationally popular destination for sex tourism, with De Wallen being a well-known red light district around the world. In spite of such, the Netherlands still faces some instances of sex trafficking as well as a high rate of drug abuse among street prostitutes specifically.

The Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, prostitution is also legal, while brothel-owning and the management of sex services is illegal. Regardless, a generally lax attitude regarding the transnational sex trade in the Caribbean has allowed the Dominican Republic to also become a well-known destination among prolific sex tourists. The Dominican especially struggles with widespread cases of child prostitution, seeing as roughly a fourth of all street prostitutes are under the age of 18. Lastly, similar to other sex tourism destinations in the Caribbean region, the Dominican Republic has attracted more female tourists, in comparison to other sex work hubs.

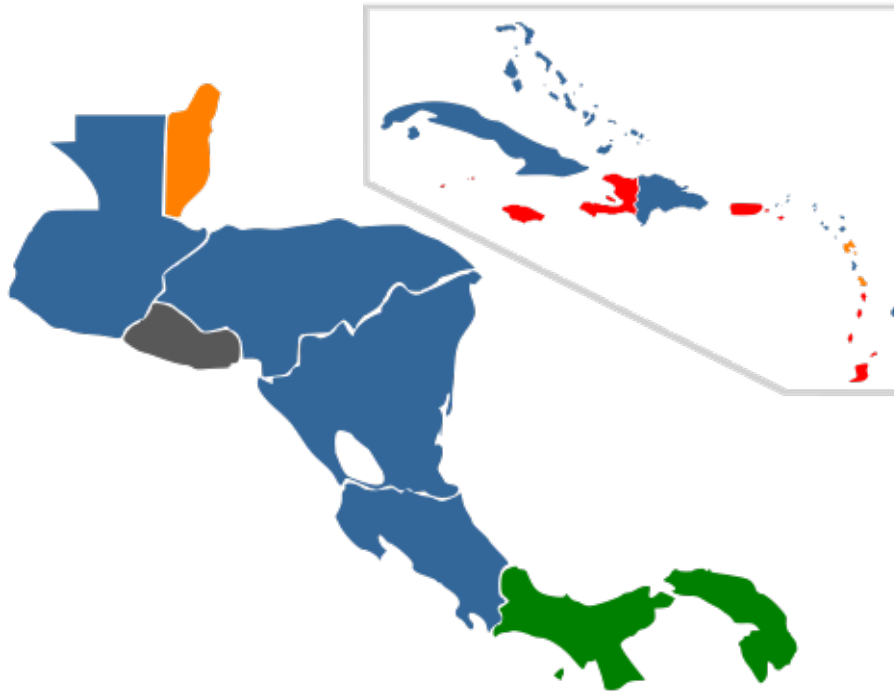


Figure 2: Legality of prostitution across the Caribbean Islands (Wikipedia)

The United States of America

A disproportionate majority of sex tourists are American. Additionally, while it can be generalized that perpetrators of common crimes in sex tourism, especially engaging in CST, are from western countries, a fourth of known perpetrators are also American. In response to this, the United States government has enacted laws that ensure Americans can be prosecuted for abuses, especially abuses against minors, even when beyond the legal borders of the US. One example of this is the PROTECT Act of 2003, which was designed to prohibit citizens from participating in child prostitution and the consumption of child pornography regardless of which country they were in. Nonetheless, it is the collective responsibility of all countries to strictly regulate and punish sexual abuses and crimes against children.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC is an office under the UN formed to protect against transnational crime, global terrorism, corruption, and drug markets and abuse. The UNODC has announced measures to investigate and support countries in the fight against sex crimes against children as well as sex trafficking, noting that many of the abuses associated with sex work and sex tourism seem to concentrate disproportionately in Southeast Asian nations. In the past, it has taken on several projects and begun various programs to specifically address the issue of the sexual exploitation of children in given regions, such as Project Childhood in Southeast Asia.

ECPAT International

ECPAT, an acronym for “End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism”, is a network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specifically targeting the prevalence of sex crimes against children in Asian countries. Currently, over 100 countries participate indirectly in ECPAT activities through the membership of over 120 civil society organizations and NGOs. ECPAT has worked with UN offices in the past, namely the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), to host international congresses on the issue of child sexual exploitation and abuse across borders. It also devotes resources toward investigating and publishing research reports on the state of sex work and child prostitution in countries around the world. One of ECPAT’s biggest successes was the development of the “Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (The Code)”. The Code has allowed for over 1000 signatories in over 40 countries to cooperate on protecting children victimized by trafficking and sex tourism, and it was adopted with the support of several UN offices and organs.

ECPAT International is one example of the countless NGOs and civil society entities around the world dedicated towards addressing the issues of the sex tourism industry, containing sex trafficking, fighting sex crimes against children, and resolving other such issues. The problems resulting from sex tourism are diverse and extensive, and so an international cooperation forged between numerous NGOs with different focuses is necessary to evaluate and regulate sex tourism as a whole.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

As of this moment, no comprehensive resolution or international agreement exists on the topic of sex tourism as a general issue. However, copious measures have been discussed and passed to address specific problems caused by abuses and lack of regulation within global sex tourism. For example, the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has adopted “The Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics (Framework Convention)”, which highlights and seeks to resolve the set of human rights abuses mentioned in this report, such as the high frequency of sex offenses against children in sex tourism. ECPAT International has also committed to helping countries abide by the Framework Convention.

Similarly, particularly to the high-priority issue of child exploitation and prostitution, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the prevailing and most widely ratified global treaty that guides governments in approaching this issue. On the topic of sex trafficking, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has proposed the “Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking” to support countries in regulating against trafficking.

Other more flexible solutions involved attempting to establish a global network of regional projects and measures that defend against specific categories of abuses in the sex tourism industry. For example, the UNODC began Project Childhood in 2012, a 4-year commitment to combating the sexual exploitation and abuse of children in four Southeast Asian sex tourism hubs: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. Similarly, the UNODC has also cooperated with the Indian government and the local private sector in devising a nationally effective “Code of Conduct for Safe and Honourable Tourism.” Focusing on regional agreements and programs offers countries a degree of flexibility in selecting which measures and stipulations to agree to, which could enhance global cooperation in the resolution of this issue as a whole. Moreover, regional efforts can be easily tailored to relevant cultural and legal contexts, especially given the variation of sex tourism industries across different countries.

Possible Solutions

What is currently missing from the global effort to regulate and supervise sex tourism in international consensus on how abuses in sex tourism industries should be classified legally and, by extension, how conflicting laws on important subject matter and details, such as ages of majority and consequences for soliciting sex work from minors, should be reconciled between countries. To achieve this, three broad measures can be considered.

First, a global treaty or agreement should be proposed to closely analyze the intricacies of how sex tourism takes hold in a country and how abuses come to thoroughly permeate local sex work industries. This agreement should set a clear standard as to how the transnational elements of sex tourism regulation should be decided (ie. potential restrictions on international tourism, standards of unhindered extradition for sex offenders). The details of this agreement can reference the international treaties and guidelines mentioned previously.

Secondly, countries may be more supportive of bilateral extradition and other measures necessary to bring justice to perpetrators of human rights abuses in the sex tourism industry. Currently, only a portion of developed countries have extended criminal law to also apply to serious offenses committed by citizens in foreign countries. Fortunately, under every possible legal designation, crimes like the

exploitation and abuse of minors would likely be considered serious offenses, so many of the crimes committed in the global sex tourism industry would be among the first to become prosecutable, once countries choose to enact criminal policy that extends beyond national borders. After governments have this legal mandate to prosecute offenders, another issue of concern is extradition from the country where the crime was committed to the offender's country of legal citizenship. Extradition is possible through the establishment of a formal diplomatic relationship between two countries that allows this, likely through a bilateral extradition treaty that explicitly permits extradition and decides on its terms. More rarely, countries also have the option of regional multilateral agreements that give a group of countries the legal authority to extradite criminals. Generally speaking, however, allocating the right to extradite falls strictly under the sovereignty of the individual countries between which extradited offenders travel. In spite of such, countries are encouraged to consider allowing extradition, especially in the case of serious humanitarian abuses.

Lastly, following in the tradition of international networks like ECPAT, to accommodate the transnational and expansive nature of the sex tourism industry, countries can work closely with international NGOs and NGO networks to receive proper advice and pragmatic aid in monitoring sex tourism and countering abuses domestically. For example, in the specific case of EPCAT, given EPCAT's prominent role in helping draft The Code, it has unique authority and ethos in advising and helping willing countries abide by The Code. In return, this type of working relationship also empowers relevant NGOs to work in and with more countries.

In addition to international and transnational solutions, addressing the foundational issues with sex tourism and sex work is a domestic policy issue. The roots of the sex work industry, especially in developing countries, are nuanced, complex, and distinctly manifold. As mentioned, many countries that attract a lot of sex tourists suffer from some sort of dependence on prostitution, at least in part. Countries are encouraged to evaluate the state of public infrastructures and welfare in regions with a lot of sex tourism, which will help identify whether entering prostitution is a coerced decision on the part of most sex workers, particularly whether it is a decision that emerges from financial need. Similarly, countries are encouraged to strengthen law enforcement in its ability to discover and counter sex trafficking. Despite these being domestic solutions and presumably left up to the will and ability of each country, countries that have the capacity to support developing countries, which bear the brunt of the impact of these humanitarian abuses, may consider forming international bodies or funds for this end.

Bibliography

Blackwell, Sara. “Extradition in International Law: Understanding the Legal Process of Transferring Criminal Suspects across Borders – the BlackWell Firm.” *Theblackwellfirm.com*, 31 Aug. 2023, theblackwellfirm.com/extradition-in-international-law-understanding-the-legal-process-of-transferring-criminal-suspects-across-borders/. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“Convention on the Rights of the Child.” *Unicef.org*, 2019, www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

Cyma Hibri. “Orientalism: Edward Said’s Groundbreaking Book Explained.” *The Conversation*, 12 Feb. 2023, theconversation.com/orientalism-edward-saids-groundbreaking-book-explained-197429. Accessed 27 Nov. 2023.

Fernanda, Maria. “Child Sex Tourism and Exploitation Are on the Rise. Companies Can Help Fight It.” *World Economic Forum*, 9 Mar. 2018, www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/03/changing-corporate-culture-can-help-fight-child-sex-tourism-heres-how/. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.” *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, 2021, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

Grouchy, Jillian. *The Global Impact of the Sex Tourism Industry: Issues of Legalization*. 2015, research.library.mun.ca/11816/1/Jillian_Grouchy.pdf.

INM. “Love for Sale: A Global History of Prostitution by Nils Ringdal, Trans Richard Daly - Reviews, Books - the Independent.” *Archive.org*, 2018, web.archive.org/web/20090511075711/www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/love-for-sale-a-global-history-of-prostitution-by-nils-ringdal-trans-richard-daly-751462.html. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“International Sex Tourism Is a Booming Industry. It’s Also Been Happening since the 18th Century.” *VCU News*, 2019, news.vcu.edu/article/International_sex_tourism_is_a_booming_industry_Its_also_been. Accessed 27 Nov. 2023.

“International Standards on Trafficking in Persons.” *OHCHR*, 2014, www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-trafficking-in-persons/international-standards-trafficking-persons. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

Kosuri, Mahathi D., and Elizabeth L. Jeglic. “Child Sex Tourism: American Perceptions of Foreign Victims.” *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, vol. 23, no. 2, Oct. 2016, pp. 207–21, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552600.2016.1231350>.

Martiny, Jonas. “Sex Tourism: When Conscience Takes a Vacation.” *Dw.com*, Deutsche Welle, 8 Aug. 2022, www.dw.com/en/sex-tourism-when-conscience-takes-a-vacation/a-62710636. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“Our Secretariat - ECPAT.” *ECPAT*, 3 Nov. 2023, ecpat.org/about-us/. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“Sex Tourism | Encyclopedia.com.” *Encyclopedia.com*, 2023, www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/sex-tourism. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“Sex Tourism | Travelers’ Health | CDC.” *Cdc.gov*, CDC.gov, 2022, wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/sex-tourism. Accessed 27 Nov. 2023.

“United Nations Organizations Cooperate to Stamp out Human Trafficking and Sex Tourism.” United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime, 2021, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2012/April/united-nations-organizations-cooperate-to-stamp-out-human-trafficking-and-sex-tourism.html. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“US Sex Laws in Thailand: The Protect Act’s Meaning and Application.” *Thailawforum.com*, 2023, www.thailawforum.com/sex-crimes-in-thailand.html. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“What Is Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment? | UNHCR.” *UNHCR*, 2023, www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/how-we-work/tackling-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment/what-sexual-exploitation. Accessed 27 Nov. 2023.

Wikipedia Contributors. “Code of Conduct for the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 25 May 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_of_Conduct_for_the_Sexual_Exploitation_of_Children_in_Travel_and_Tourism. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

Wikipedia Contributors. “Sex Tourism.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 23 Nov. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_tourism#Child_sex_tourism. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

