



FAIR TRADE IN TOURISM SOUTH AFRICA (FTTSA)

FTTSA, South Africa's leading responsible tourism NGO, is the official Local Code Representative (LCR) for South Africa and has been mandated by local stakeholders including the National Departments of Social Development and Tourism, to drive the Code implementation in South Africa.

FTTSA is a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable tourism development in South Africa by encouraging and publicizing fair and responsible business practice by South African tourism establishments. FTTSA focuses particularly on fair wages and working conditions, fair operations, purchasing and distribution of benefits, ethical business practice and the respect for human rights, culture and the environment.

With the support of a number of the major industry associations and government departments, FTTSA further aims to raise awareness about the issue of Child Sex Tourism in South Africa and works closely together with both the private and the public sector to improve the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

As the LCR for South Africa, FTTSA will also assist signatory companies with the application process, which includes completing an Application Form, creating an Action Plan of how the company plans to implement the Code in their day-to-day operations, and establishing an adapted training program in the organisation.



Fair Trade in Tourism in South Africa (FTTSA)
local representative of The Code.org
The Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct

LCR Contact Info

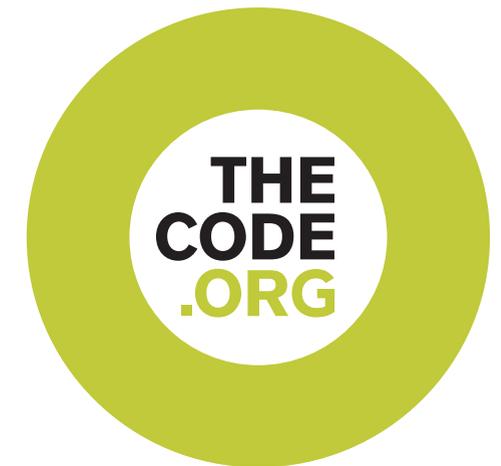


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Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA)

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Funding and advisory partners



THE TOURISM CHILD PROTECTION
CODE OF CONDUCT
www.fairtourismsa.org.za/thecode

INTRODUCTION TO THE CODE

All over the world, children are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation. A widespread global child sex trade has been established and demand has increased, resulting in increased supply. The commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs all over the world, mainly in South-East Asia, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe.

The Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct (The Code) is an instrument of self-regulation and Corporate Social Responsibility, which aims to provide increased protection to children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. It is based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and requires commitment from all levels of the signatory company's business.

Over 1000 companies have already signed The Code across the globe. The initiative, which started as a project of ECPAT International¹, has been endorsed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and many national governments.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

Tourism growth, especially rapid growth, may impact negatively on destinations measured in social, environmental and economic terms. One such negative impact is the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in tourism – commonly referred to as child sex tourism (CST). This cruel, worldwide phenomenon is defined as “the commercial sexual exploitation of children by men or women who travel from one place to another, usually from a richer country to one that is less developed and there engage in sexual acts with children.”

In South Africa, at least 40,000 children are exploited as child prostitutes each year and more than 250,000 children live on the streets with an average age being 13 years old. The number of trafficked and exploited children is not known, however, statistics show that every year 1,500 children under the age of 18 go missing. According to Jennifer Seif, Executive Director of Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA), these vulnerable children are “easy targets” and especially at risk of being exploited in the Child Sex Tourism business.

Although South Africa is not a renowned Child Sex Tourism or trafficking destination, certain realities in the country create the perfect environment for the exploitation of children. These are: the inflow of tourists, the ease with which people can cross its borders, societal beliefs that tolerate violence against women, high levels of poverty and growing inequality since 1994 suggest that tens of thousands of children are at risk of sexual and other forms of exploitation. Domestic as well as foreign tourists may knowingly or unknowingly become involved in child exploitation, for example by transacting sex with an underage sex worker or buying goods from a trader exploiting child labour.

WHAT THE TOURISM INDUSTRY CAN DO ABOUT CST

According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world. Especially many developing countries consider tourism as the most important present and future source of income. By creating greater awareness about Human and Child Rights amongst those that work in the tourism sector and by actively promoting more responsible and ethical behaviour amongst travellers, the tourism industry is becoming a strong support in the campaign to end commercial sexual exploitation of children.

By endorsing The Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct, tourism businesses such as tour operators, hotels, travel agents, etc. commit themselves to implement the following measures in their operations the following measures to pro-actively protect children from sex tourism:

1. To establish an ethical corporate policy regarding sexual exploitation of children.
2. To train the personnel in the country of origin and in destinations.
3. To introduce clauses in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiating of sexual exploitation of children.
4. To provide information to travellers (e.g. by means of catalogues, info cards, brochures, in flight videos, ticket slips, home pages, etc).
5. To provide information to local “key persons” at tourism destinations.
6. To report annually.

HOW TO BECOME A CODE SIGNATORY

The following steps are required for adoption and implementation of The Code by a South African tourism business:

- Application – An Application Form is provided to interested companies by FTTSA via email and/or can be downloaded on our website (see below).
- Action Plan – An Action Plan for implementation of the Code will be prepared by the company, in consultation with FTTSA. A draft Action Plan form can be obtained from FTTSA and/or the website below.

Both, the completed Application Form and the draft Action Plan will be submitted by FTTSA to The Code.org Secretariat for final approval.

- Signing – Upon approval of the Application and Action Plan, the Code Agreement will be signed by the applying company, FTTSA and the Code.org.

- Membership Fees – The annual membership fees are payable upon signing the Agreement and amount to either €50, €300 or €800 depending on the company's turnover and operational scope. 20% of the fee reverts back to the LCR to cover administration and monitoring costs in South Africa.

- Monitoring – Annual Reports on the implementation are expected to be sent by all signatory companies to FTTSA. This is to monitor and evaluate their activities in terms of the sustainable and effective protection of children on their premises and around.

For more Information – please visit our website www.fairtourismsa.org.za/thecode or contact us by emailing thecode@fairtourismsa.org.za.

Background information on the sexual exploitation of children can be found on www.ecpat.net

¹ECPAT 'End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes' is a global network of organizations ensuring that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. In 1990, researchers at a tourism consultation in Thailand first exposed the degree to which child prostitution was increasing in many Asian countries which led to ECPAT establishment as a campaign. The ECPAT network now consists of more than 80 members in over 75 countries working to end Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. For information, please visit www.ecpat.net.