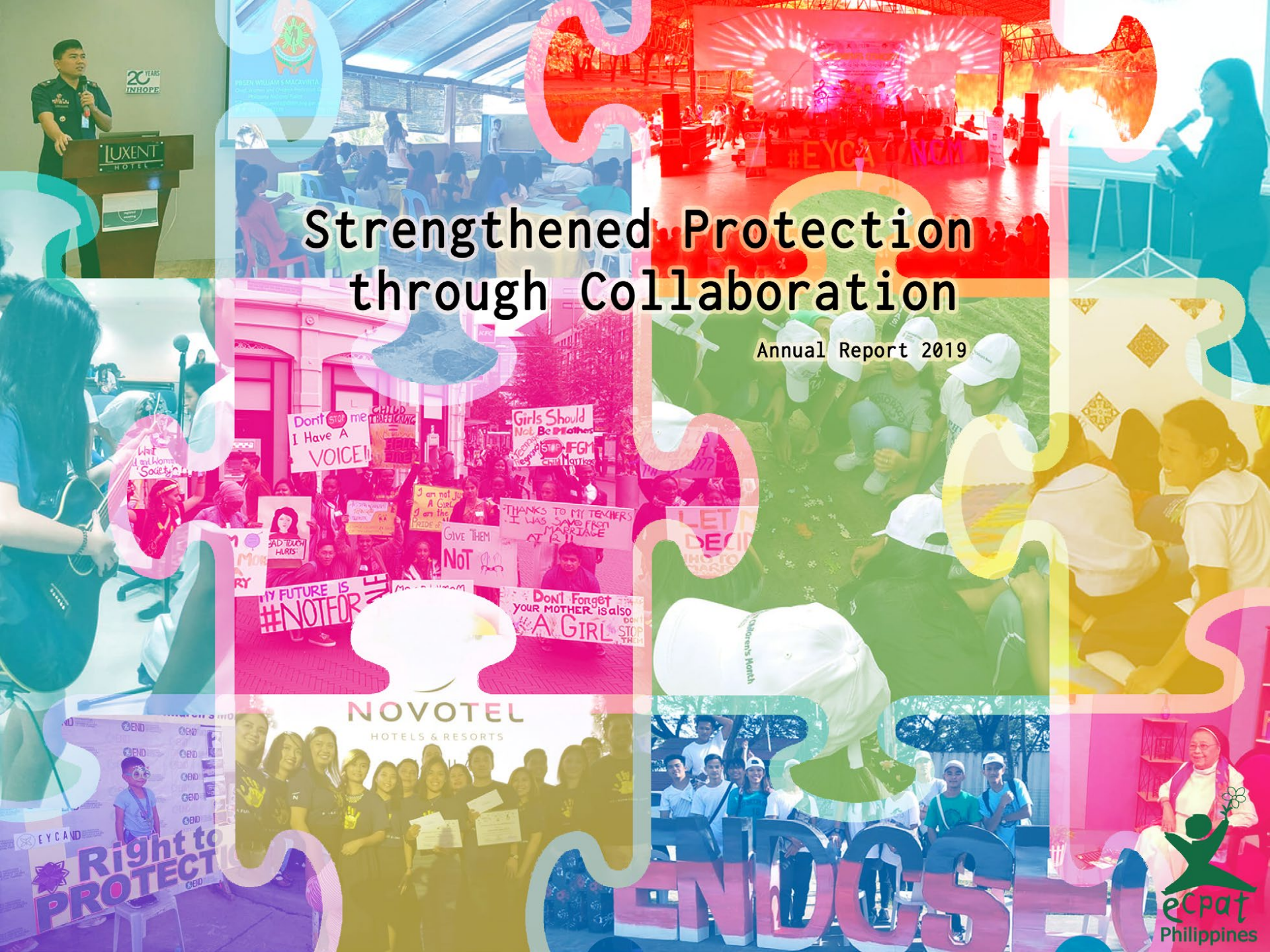


Strengthened Protection through Collaboration

Annual Report 2019





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All photos of children in this publication are not, in any way, to be interpreted as victims of any kind of abuse and exploitation.

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Message from the Executive Director

The year 2019 has once again proven that **collaboration of key sectors is vital in advancing our work against sexual exploitation of children (SEC)**. Through our engagements with key government agencies and local government units, **policies and programs on the issue were either strengthened or institutionalized**.

We're especially proud of the milestones reached in making tourism safer for Filipino children. With the Tourism Child Protection Ordinance passed and implemented in more tourist destinations, **prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT) has gradually become sustainable** in areas where we work.

Thanks to raised awareness of private sectors and individuals on their role in preventing sexual violence against children, more cases were reported, and **more support were extended to survivors and children in vulnerable communities**.

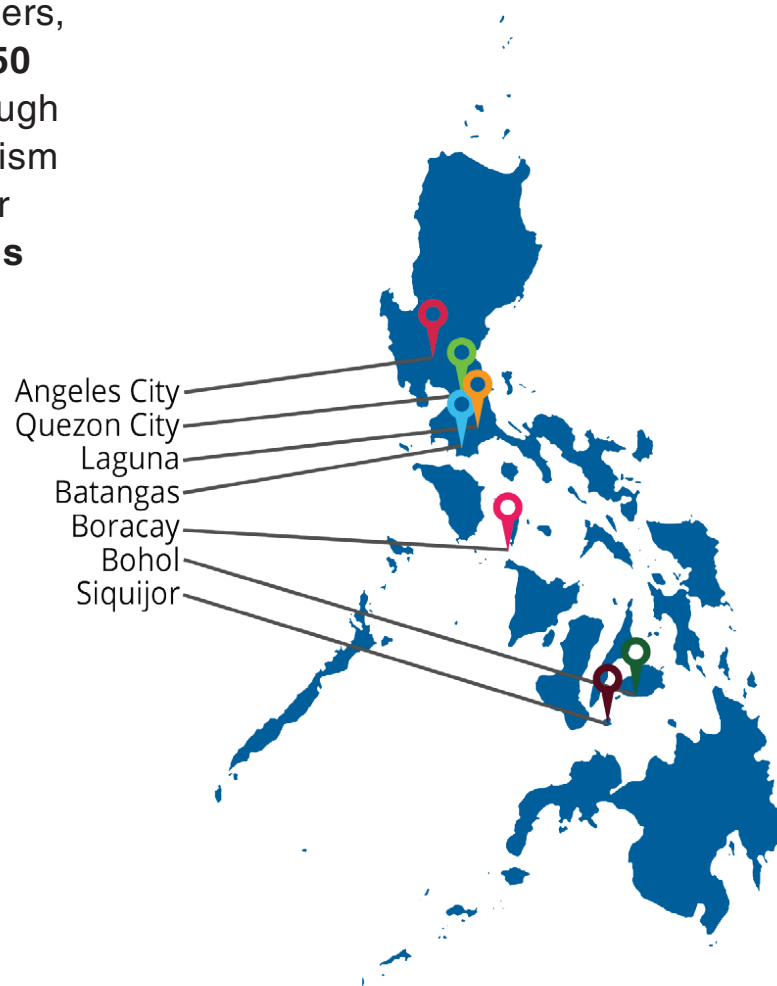
Let's aim for more milestones in 2020 and beyond, as we partner towards a nation where children fully enjoy the protection they deserve -- whoever and wherever you are, you play an important role in advancing the rights of children. No act is too small.



Dolores S.D. Alforte
Executive Director
ECPAT Philippines

Where We Work

With the support of development partners, ECPAT has exhaustively worked in **over 50 barangays in 7 key areas** for 2019. Through partnerships with the Department of Tourism and other Civil Society Organizations, our organization was able to reach **thousands more stakeholders nationwide.**



Highlights of 2019

 **Tourism child protection ordinance enacted anew**



More hotels joined The Code



A child-friendly facility and rafts built for vulnerable children and families



Apprenticeship program awarded to youth advocates



Programs to fight sexual exploitation of children mainstreamed in local government plans

7,781 children and youth educated on their rights, how to recognize red flags and report child sexual exploitation

6,142 parents and community members educated on their responsibility to uphold children's rights, comply with child protection laws, to recognize red flags of exploitation, and seek help for victim-survivors

1,260 tourism professionals such as hotel frontliners, tour guides, and tourist drivers educated on their unique role in preventing sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism

278 **young people** trained to be leaders and peer educators to support young victims of sexual exploitation

84 **victim-survivors and children living in vulnerable communities** provided with specialized services such as educational, health, legal, livelihood, and psychosocial assistance

49 **child protection committees supported and referral mechanisms** established in SEC-affected communities

609 **government officials** trained on child protection laws, and the protocol for case management of child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation

689 **law enforcers** trained to respond to cases of sexual exploitation of children in accordance with child protection legislations

143 **tourism businesses** educated to operate with respect to children's rights and child protection laws

Towards a Child-Safe Tourism

Three decades ago, when traveling child sex offenders started to proliferate in developing countries including the Philippines, the **ECPAT network was the first to recognize and act**. What started as a 3-year movement to **End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism** led to the very first **World Congress on Sexual Exploitation of Children** in 1996. Attended by governments, civil society groups and private entities, the event became instrumental **for States to finally establish legal frameworks on child protection**.

As one of the very first members of ECPAT in 1991, **ECPAT Philippines was among the lead organizations who pushed for the enactment of landmark legislations on Sexual Exploitation of Children** in the country. Thirty years later, as the tourism industry continues to progress more than ever, our organization perseveres to lead efforts that will address emerging risk factors of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism.



ECPAT is Local Code Representative in the Philippines

Developed by *ECPAT Sweden, United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)* and several Swedish Tour Operators in response to the first World Congress on Sexual Exploitation of Children in 1996, **The Code of Conduct on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (The Code)** is a multi-stakeholder initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children.

Companies who join The Code commit to six essential steps to keep children safe: (1) **Establish a policy and procedures against SEC;** (2) **Train employees on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation and how to report suspected cases;** (3) **Include a clause in contracts through the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero tolerance policy of SEC;** (4) **Provide information to travelers on children's rights, the prevention of**



We protect children in travel and tourism

sexual exploitation and how to report suspected cases; (5) **Support, collaborate and engage stakeholders in the prevention of SEC;** (6) **Report annually on the implementation of the six criteria.**

With **376 member companies** in **158 countries** at present, the Code has trained over **977,000 tourism professionals** to respond to prospective cases of SECTT. With the help of Local Code Representatives (LCRs) in implementing countries, more businesses are being influenced to take the lead in protecting children in travel and tourism. Since its establishment, ECPAT Philippines has popularized the Code as a child protection framework to guide hotels in the Philippines. In November 2019, ECPAT was officially appointed as the LCR in the country.

Two Bohol hotels sign up to The Code

Two years after the successful enactment of the **Bohol Tourism Child Protection Ordinance** which requires all tourism businesses in the province to adopt a child protection policy and train their employees on child protection, **Belian Hotel** and **Bohol Sunside Resort** have taken their commitment a step further by signing up to The Code.

For Belian, being a member of the Code empowers their employees to take concrete steps on preventing SECTT in their business.

“Before joining the Code, our staff wouldn’t know what to do or cower in fear of customers who may react negatively to the implementation of the Tourism Child Protection Ordinance. As a member of the Code, we now have access to information, training and tools on how to be response-ready,” said Joy Angeli Uy, Hotel Manager.



Further, Belian believes that being a member of the Code allows them to be known as a responsible brand and at the forefront of protecting children in the travel and tourism industry. *“We hope that our strong stand on this will become a deterrent for offenders, and an example for other establishments to follow,”* Uy said.

Bohol Model Ordinance Adopted in Siquijor town

Following the footsteps of Bohol and Malay, Aklan, the municipality of San Juan, Siquijor enacted the Tourism Child Protection Ordinance on May 29, 2019.

Recognizing the effects of the province's increasing popularity, the municipal government wants to ensure that children's safety won't be compromised.

“[Siquijor] is attracting tourists much more than the municipality is capable of accommodating. Tourism-related establishments are sprouting, and smaller accommodations are outnumbering the bigger ones and possibly attracting illegal operations.”

To prevent this, the local law requires tourism-related establishments such as hotels, accommodations, transport groups, travel agencies and the like, to adopt a child protection policy. It shall state the company's “refusal to conduct business with any person or company who is engaged or associated with sexual exploitation of children.” This shall be displayed in the reception desk, in the lobby, facade, and other visible areas within the facility. Compliance



to this section is a requirement for renewal of annual business permit and license to operate.

Meanwhile, Section 5 of the ordinance mandates business owners and staff to require all adult guests, especially those who are accompanied by a child or children, to present a valid proof of identity. Whenever practical, businesses should also maintain a separate record book of all guests who are bringing with them a child or all children with no adult companions; this will make it easier for law enforcers to monitor and investigate prospective cases of child sexual exploitation in the establishment.

Aside from underscoring businesses' duty to report any suspicious activity, the ordinance also emphasizes the responsibility of the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) to monitor the private sector's compliance and ensure delivery of healing and reintegration services for the rescued child survivors.

ECPAT is part of government Inter-Agency Working Group on ChildSafe Tourism

To further empower tourism frontliners to take part in the fight against sexual exploitation of children, the *Department of Tourism (DOT)* in the Philippines launched its program called *Tourism Integrates, Support and Minds Women's Respect and Child Safety (TourISM WoRCS)* on August 13, 2019 in Quezon City.

Under the program, provision of child protection seminars for tourism frontliners is institutionalized as part of DOT-mandated capacity building trainings. It will also facilitate the establishment of “Child-Safe and Women in Tourism” Focal Persons in all regional tourism offices across the country.

ECPAT Philippines is appointed as one of the NGO members of the InterAgency Working Group to implement the program, particularly, in providing child protection seminars for tourism professionals. Other members include Officials of



Members of the Inter-Agency Working Group sign the Covenant for a Child-Safe Philippines during the TourISM WoRCS launch on Aug. 13, 2016 in Quezon City

the Tourism Congress of the Philippines, Philippine National Police (PNP), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Philippines Commission on Women (PCW), and Friends International.

Dusit Thani and Robinsons Hotels trained to be response-ready; Best Western Clark commits to be child-safe

ECPAT conducted a *Training of Trainers for managers of Dusit Thani and Robinsons Hotels* on February 18 and September 13, 2019, respectively. The trainings, which highlighted the unique role of tourism professionals in protecting children from sexual exploitation on travel and tourism, aimed to capacitate the managers in training their staff on responding to suspicious cases that may happen in their establishments. The importance of having a prevention system in place was also highlighted during the discussions, hence, workshops on developing a child protection policy were facilitated.

Meanwhile, *Best Western Metro Clark* in Angeles City, Pampanga partnered with ECPAT in ensuring that child protection measures will be established within the hotel. Both parties have committed to work together by signing a Memorandum of Agreement on July 18, 2019.



ToT for managers of Robinsons Hotels on Sep. 13, 2019



ToT for Managers of Dusit Thani on Feb. 18-19, 2019

Addressing vulnerabilities through economic empowerment

The lucrative nature of SEC makes it thrive in poverty. While raising vulnerable children's awareness on their rights is vital in addressing the problem, **helping them access sustainable livelihood further reduces their susceptibility to deceit and exploitation.**

A learning space for children, rafts for parents' livelihood

To promote learning among out-of school children and youth in Doljo, Bohol, ECPAT built a Child-Friendly Space/Library in Barangay on July 2019. Supervised by local social workers and teachers in the community, the library also functions as a safe space where children can seek help when victimized or at-risk of abuse and exploitation.

ECPAT provided two rafts (locally known as balsa) to help parents utilize the growing demand for Sea Urchin (Swaki) delicacy as a source of income. The raft function as clean working areas where freshly-caught sea urchins are cut open and prepared. *“Due to a lack of space, families used to open the swaki in their very small homes and customers would find it unhygienic. Now, with the preparation being done on the rafts while at sea, customers are assured that they're purchasing fresh and clean products,”* said Janice Talip, ECPAT Coordinator in Bohol.



Youth Advocates awarded with Novotel Apprenticeship Program

ECPAT Youth Advocates Ronnie and Danna were awarded with a 6-month apprenticeship program by *Novotel Manila Araneta City* during its Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 21, 2019.

Both newly-graduates, they're hopeful that this opportunity for employment will be their stepping stone for a bright future.

Ronnie's long-term goal is to own a house where his family can comfortably live. He plans to fulfill this by working abroad, once he's gained enough on-the-job experience.

On the other hand, Danna is eager to start the internship and do her best to succeed for her mother. **“Everything I do is for my mom. She's always been there for our family despite all the hardships.”**

Both Ronnie and Danna were recipients of ECPAT's educational assistance and empowerment trainings for youth living in vulnerable communities. They have also participated in youth campaigns on children's rights and protection from sexual exploitation.



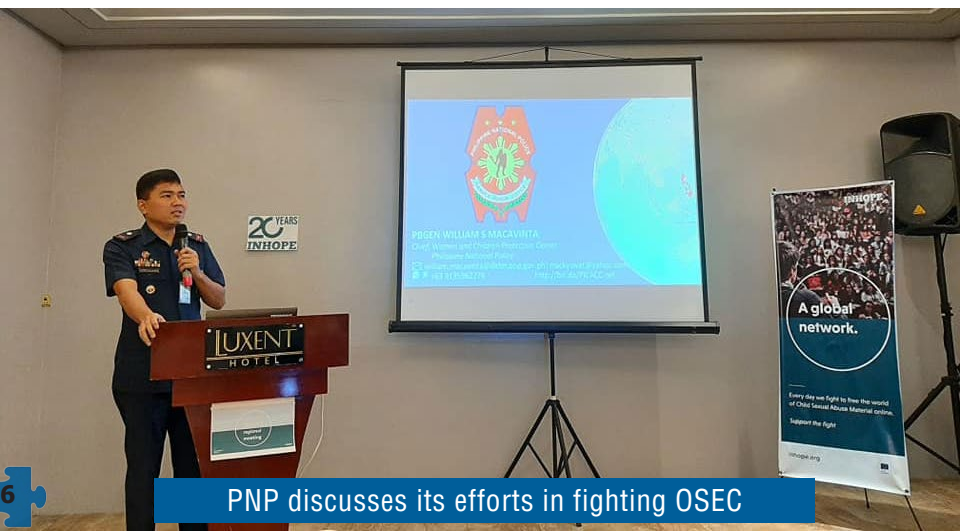
Ronnie and Danna were awarded with an apprenticeship program during Novotel's Tree Lighting Event on Nov. 21, 2019

Strengthening the fight against Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

INHOPE Regional Meeting

INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines) and its members from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hongkong and Cambodia gathered in the Philippines on December 3 and 4, 2019, to strengthen regional collaboration in eliminating Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) on the internet. The event was filled with learning as each member hotline shared its best practices, strengths and recommendations in addressing CSAM in their respective countries.

Key law enforcement agencies: Department of Information and Communications Technology (*DICT*) – *Cyber Security Bureau* and *Philippine National Police* also attended the event to discuss their work in fighting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) in the Philippines.



Western Union and Palawan Pawnshop also shared their insights on how money transfer services are being used to send payment for illicit transactions, and how they can aid in investigation of cases.

ECPAT in partnership with the DICT is set to operate the INHOPE Hotline in the Philippines. Through the Hotline, all internet users can easily report CSAM. Verified reports will automatically be forwarded to partner hotlines in countries where the materials are hosted and be taken down for good.



Western Union discusses how it can aid in investigation of cases of CSAM



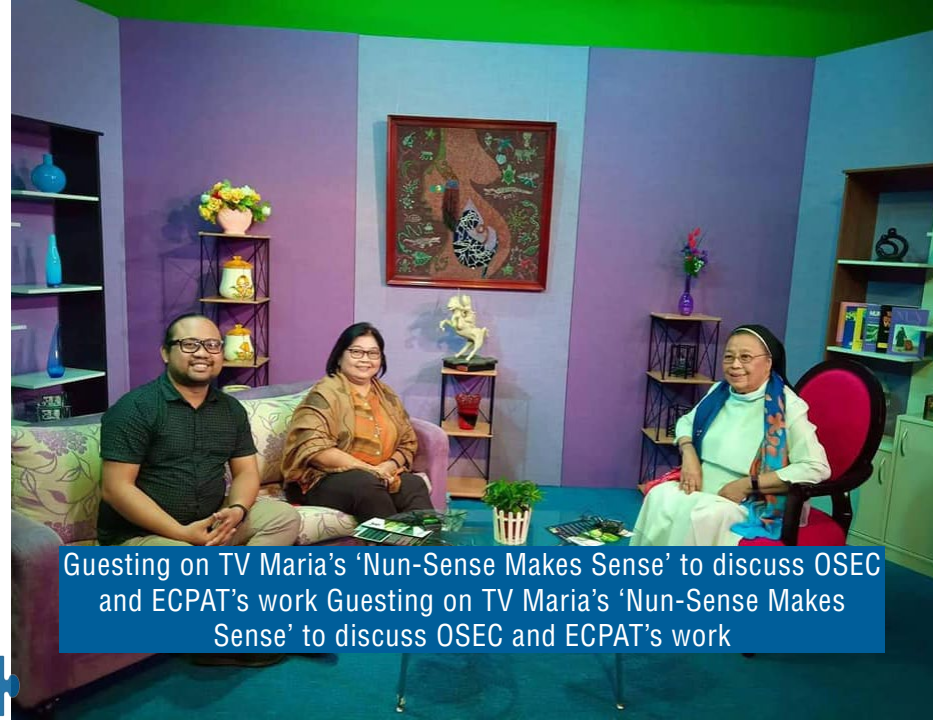
INHOPE and ECPAT met with the DICT on Dec. 2, 2019 to discuss the operation of an internet hotline in the Philippines

CyberGuardians

ECPAT is a core member of *CyberGuardians*, a newly-established network of government agencies, social institutions and private entities with the common goal of ending Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) in the Philippines. It focuses on intensifying public awareness on the serious effects of OSEC and how people can take action. In the last quarter of 2019, it has produced a series of informational talk shows to be aired on TV Maria, and held a Christmas Medical Mission and Psychosocial Event for 150 young people in Quezon City on December 22, 2019.



Taping of CyberChat, a talk show to be aired on TV Maria



Guesting on TV Maria's 'Nun-Sense Makes Sense' to discuss OSEC and ECPAT's work



Physical check-ups, dental and eye services were given to 150 children and youth from Quezon City on Dec. 22, 2019



Actors Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla dropped by the Medical Mission on Dec. 22 to surprise children beneficiaries

Mainstreaming SEC in Local Government Plans and Programs

**Local taskforce created;
budget for SEC programs allocated in
new assisted areas**

With the support of ECPAT Sweden, ECPAT Philippines has extended its work to key provinces in Region IV-A. As a part of the *Provincial Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence against Women and Children (PCAT-VAWC)* in Laguna, ECPAT's continuous lobbying led to the **creation of the AntiTrafficking in Persons Taskforce** which focuses on rescue of child victims and prosecution of cases. ECPAT also **assisted the PCAT-VAWC in sourcing funds** from the *Peace and Order Council* of Laguna in February 2019. Through this allocation, the committee can now plan and implement activities that fight Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEC).

On October 1, 2019, ECPAT and the Municipal Government of Lobo, Batangas sealed its partnership through a *Memorandum of Understanding* in which both parties commit to work together to assist local executive departments in developing and implementing programs on SEC prevention and response.



MOU signing between ECPAT and the Municipal Government of Lobo, Batangas on Oct. 1, 2019

Awareness on protection of children from sexual exploitation mainstreamed in Angeles and Quezon City

Through ECPAT's partnership with the Youth Development Office in Angeles City, implementation of advocacy campaigns on SEC was included in the agency's 3-year plan. ECPAT also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the city's Department of Education Division to train teachers in responding to cases of SEC.

Meanwhile, through a MOA with the Department of Social Welfare and Development National Capital Region (DSWD-NCR), ECPAT successfully pushed for the integration of child protection and SEC awareness to be part of the Family and Development Seminars for Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (Conditional Cash Transfer) beneficiaries in Quezon City.



Empowering Children and Youth

Youth-led video campaign urges Filipinos to fight child sexual exploitation

Over 370 young people from *Quezon City, Pampanga, Bohol, and Boracay* gathered together via livestream for the launch of *ECPAT Youth and Children Advocate's* spoken-poetry video campaign on May 17, 2019.

Calling the video *Paglaya(g)* (*To be free, to sail*), EYCA metaphorically likened children's plight against sexual exploitation to "tidal waves that drown children in pain and hopelessness." The campaign calls on everyone to unite and be children's voice against abuse, exploitation, and victim-blaming.

Having known and talked to boys and girls who've been exploited in the sex trade, EYCA sees how child survivors get stigmatized by society. The group hopes that people would take the time to understand the stories of victims and underlying causes of their exploitation instead of blaming them.

Tracy Macawili, 17 years old from Angeles City, thinks that some children, aside from having disadvantaged backgrounds, are still too young to fully understand abuse and exploitation. Once manipulated or enticed with money, gadgets and other material things, they become easy preys. ***"Children who come from broken families do not have parents or anyone to guide them. Some are even abused in their own homes. Predators are taking advantage of that vulnerability,"*** she said.

Nineteen year-old Dolly Ann Condeza from Quezon City encourages children to report to authorities or tell someone they trust if they experience any form of abuse and exploitation. Having experienced physical and verbal abuse as a child, she also calls on people to be the voice of victims who couldn't speak for themselves.

PAGLAYAG



“There are thousands of children abused and exploited but how many people have actually sought help for them?” Dolly said to the audience at the launch. She hopes that their campaign will get people, especially children, to talk about the issue. *“People need to open their eyes to the truth. Don’t turn a blind eye to children’s suffering. It’s everyone’s responsibility to save them,”* she urged everyone.

The video campaign has reached over 230,000 internet users as of December 2019.

Youth Advocates hold awareness concert for Children’s Month

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)*, the ECPAT Youth and Children Advocates (EYCA) held #BatAwit, a Children’s Concert on November 24, 2019 at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center. In its goal to promote children’s protection and participation rights, different children and young people’s groups from communities in Quezon City were invited to showcase their talents on singing, dancing, and theater play. Around 300 children, parents and community members attended the concert.



Meanwhile, a series of youth celebrations were also held in Angeles City and Bohol throughout the Month of November.



Youth Advocate joins campaign global campaign on girls' empowerment

Eric, an ECPAT youth advocate, participated in the “Global Youth MeetUp and Level-Up for Girls”, an event organized by the *Girls Advocacy Alliance* from August 30 to September 4, 2019, in the Netherlands.

He joined 19 other youth from 10 different countries. Throughout the week, the youth delegates shared key issues on gender-based violence and economic exclusion; best practices in raising awareness; challenges faced in the advocacy; and the strengths of youth advocacy in promoting girls and young women's rights. Further, they attended sessions on enhancing advocacy knowledges and skills.



The highlight of the week was the *LevelUp for Girls!* event on September 3, 2019 where the youth delegates shared their insights and experiences with highlevel guests including key government leaders, professionals working with the youth, local media, and youth advocates from the Netherlands.

Eric brought with him his grassroots experiences in advocating for protection of children from sexual exploitation and trafficking for sexual purposes.



Eric sharing with the delegates the issue of sexual exploitation of girls in the Philippines

Angie finally goes to school

At 6 years old, “Angie” had to rely on herself to survive. With both parents in and out of prison due to drug abuse, and older siblings also struggling to feed their own families, young Angie had roamed the slums of Manila every night, begging for money or food from predators who sexually abused her -- this had been her life until the age of 11.

In November 2019, Angie was rescued and brought to the ECPAT Home by a GMA Network media team.

While the unfamiliarity of being in a shelter scared Angie at first, she already started to feel at home just a few days after her admission. “I already have friends here,” she smilingly said in Tagalog when asked how she was doing at her new home.

When Angie learned she was going to school for the first time, she got very excited. Seeing her school uniform and supplies made her grin. She’d never gone to school before.

An eager learner, Angie has shown progress within just 2-months in preschool. “I can now write my name,” she would proudly tell and show everyone



who passes by when she practices. She’s also learned how to correctly state her age, birthday, address, and school. Though her classmates are half her age, she’s easily made friends, enjoyed activities and always excited to attend class.

While Angie misses her family at times, her desire to finish school motivates her to stay at the shelter. She’s assured that her family can visit her anytime, especially on Christmas, in which she always looks forward to.

Aside from schooling, Angie also participates in psychosocial and recreational activities as part of ECPAT’s holistic recovery and reintegration program for survivors.

Development Partners

The logo for 'act' features the lowercase letters 'act' in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Church of Sweden 

The logo for 'DEFENCE for CHILDREN' has the words 'DEFENCE for CHILDREN' in purple, with 'for' in a smaller font. To the right is an orange circle containing two stylized human figures, one purple and one white.The logo for 'Dka Austria' consists of a teal square with a white circle and a crosshair, followed by the text 'Dka Austria' in teal.The logo for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands features a blue square with the Dutch royal coat of arms (a crown and two lions) in white.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

The logo for 'PLAN INTERNATIONAL' has a blue background with a white circle containing a stylized figure holding a sun. To the right, the word 'PLAN' is in large white letters, and 'INTERNATIONAL' is in smaller white letters below it.The logo for 'eCpat NETHERLANDS' features a green stylized figure holding a flower, with the text 'eCpat' in green and 'NETHERLANDS' in black below it.The logo for 'eCpat SWEDEN' features a green stylized figure holding a flower, with the text 'eCpat' in green and 'SWEDEN' in black below it.The logo for 'PIA Philippine International Aid' has a red background with a white stylized figure holding hands above the text 'PIA' in white, and 'Philippine International Aid' in white below it.The logo for 'VISION Him POSSIBLE' has the word 'VISION' in black, 'Him' in large orange script, and 'POSSIBLE' in black below it.

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Right to PROTECT

