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Child victims of sex trafficking are being exploited in America's hotels

ECPAT-USA's new Public Service Announcement and campaign, "Does Your Hotel Know?", calls on hotels and travelers to learn the signs of sex trafficking and take action.

Sex trafficking victims - including children - are often bought and sold in hotel rooms and exploited in prostitution, ranging from budget properties to luxury resorts. Service providers and law enforcement agencies report that nearly all victims they come in contact with have been exploited in hotels. A trafficker may run his business out of a hotel room, putting employees in a unique position to identify victims and alert authorities. From check-in to check-out there are a number of indicators victims and traffickers exhibit during the time they are on a hotel property.

Estimates state that 100,000 American children are victims of sex trafficking in the United States and 300,000 are at risk. Over 4,000 children just in NYC were found to be victims of sexual exploitation, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received over 500,000 reports of sexual exploitation in 2013 alone.

Katrina Owens, survivor of trafficking and victim advocate, was exploited in prostitution the United States and in New York City beginning at the age of 16. She spoke about her experience of being taken to hotels, "Some of the top hotels they look at you and they know; its like when your eyes meet you know that something might not be right, 'should I say something, should I not say anything, or should I just turn my head?' And quite often, they turn their head."

Despite the number of victims, the hotel industry has been taking a stand. "We've made a lot of progress working with hotels in the United States. The travel industry has become really active because they know they can make a huge difference in the lives of victims," says Michelle Guelbart, Director of Private Sector Engagement for ECPAT-USA. "With almost every training I lead, someone tells a story about how they have witnessed something on a hotel property. Our hope is that training to prevent and identify child sex trafficking becomes standard with the hospitality industry."

Real Hospitality Group, a hotel management company with properties such as Hilton, Hyatt, Marriot, Wyndham, etc. has been conducting training for hotel employees in New York City. Ben Seidel, President and CEO stated, "Real Hospitality Group is committed to doing all it can within our sphere of influence to end the sexual exploitation of children. Our associates are in a unique position to be able to identify victims and alert authorities. It was important to us to work with ECPAT-USA to develop and implement complete training for all

associates not only within New York City but across our portfolio in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland”.

ECPAT-USA is launching the PSA “[Does Your Hotel Know](#)” as a call to action to hotels and their customers. With proper training, a front desk clerk or a housekeeper can notice that something is not right and respond. ECPAT-USA promotes The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct ([The Code](#)), the only voluntary set of business principles companies can implement to prevent sex tourism and the sex trafficking of children. ECPAT-USA's new campaign promotes corporate social responsibility and encourages hotel brands to join the Code and take a stand against sexual exploitation. Major companies currently implementing the Code include Hilton Worldwide, Wyndham, Carlson Companies, Orbitz, and Delta Airlines.

An additional focus of this campaign is responsible tourism and utilizing travel for social change and positive impacts. This November ECPAT-USA is leading the groundbreaking journey to Thailand, [Behind the CODE: An ECPAT Advocacy Journey](#), in which a group of tourists have the opportunity to learn about the issue of sexual exploitation, along with how the travel industry is combating trafficking and child sex tourism. Registration costs directly support anti-trafficking programs.

About ECPAT:

ECPAT is an international network comprised of over 80 organizations, represented in 75 countries. [ECPAT-USA](#) is recognized as one of the primary organizations focused on ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children and is the American affiliate of the international ECPAT network. ECPAT-USA works every day to ensure that no child is bought, sold, or used for sex. ECPAT-USA undertakes policy and legislative advocacy, corporate social responsibility, research, training, educational initiatives, along with raising awareness that children are commercially sexually exploited here in the US. <http://www.ecpatusa.org/>

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Orange County District Attorney & Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force



FOOD & BEVERAGE WARNING SIGNS

FOOD & BEVERAGE WARNING SIGNS FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

There are a number of indicators commonly found in instances of child sex trafficking.

Note: many of these indicators can also be seen in *lawful* activities and the presence of just one of these indicators does not immediately mean sex trafficking is occurring. Incidents of *multiple signs* are the best indication. Consider these to be red flags.

1. Patron entertaining a young person at the bar or restaurant that they did not come in with originally
2. Patron requesting information or access to adult services or to local sex industry
3. Individuals exhibiting anxious or nervous behavior and avoiding contact with staff and other patrons
4. Individuals loitering and soliciting male customers
5. Individual waiting at a table or bar and picked up by a male
6. Individuals without access to their own ID, cell phone, or money
7. Claims of being an adult although appearance suggests adolescent features
8. No freedom of movement or constantly monitored; avoids interaction with others
9. Restricted, mediated, or controlled communication (not allowed to speak for self); answers seem coached
10. Averts eyes or does not make eye contact, especially with a "boyfriend"
11. Lack of knowledge about current/past whereabouts; exhibits loss of a sense of time
12. Dressed inappropriate for age, has lower quality clothing than companions, or is wearing clothing inappropriate for weather conditions or surroundings
13. Appears to be with a significantly older "boyfriend" or in the company of older males
14. Treated in a demeaning or aggressive manner or evidence of verbal threats
15. Individuals hanging out in lobby or hallways, or appearing to monitor the area
16. Minor with patron late night or during school hours (and not on vacation)

Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitation www.egovlink/ochumantrafficking.org

If you suspect child sex trafficking, call the national hotline: **1-888-3737-888**



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SECURITY WARNING SIGNS

SECURITY WARNING SIGNS FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

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1. Presence of an overly controlling and abusive “boyfriend”
2. Averts eyes or does not make eye contact, especially with a “boyfriend”
3. Lack of knowledge about current or past whereabouts; exhibits loss of a sense of time
4. Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
5. Individuals without access to their own ID, cell phone, or money
6. Restricted, mediated, or controlled communication (not allowed to speak for self); answers seem coached
7. Demeanor is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous
8. Dressed inappropriate for age, has lower quality clothing than companions, or is wearing clothing inappropriate for weather conditions or surroundings
9. Appears to be with a significantly older “boyfriend” or in the company of older males
10. Treated in a demeaning or aggressive manner or evidence of verbal threats
11. Group of girls traveling with an older male
12. Signs of dissociation or avoidance of interaction with others, especially about sharing personal situation
13. Signs of poor hygiene, fatigue, sleep deprivation
14. Injuries/signs of physical abuse or torture, such as bruises, burns, scars and/or malnourishment
15. Few or no personal possessions carried in small or plastic bags
16. No freedom of movement or constantly monitored
17. Suspicious tattoos, marks, or branding, especially on girls (e.g. a tattoo of the trafficker’s name, or that reflects money or ownership; two or more individuals with the same tattoo/mark; tattoos on the hands, neck, and face)
18. Claims of being an adult although appearance suggests adolescent features
19. Shades or curtains always drawn on outward facing room
20. Excessive foot traffic in and out of a room (or rooms) rented by the same person
21. Car in parking lot regularly parked “backward”, so license plate can’t be read from lot

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HOUSEKEEPING WARNING SIGNS

HOUSEKEEPING HOTEL WARNING SIGNS FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

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1. "Do Not Disturb" sign used constantly
2. Orders room service or requests amenities, but refuses access to room for delivery
3. Excessive amounts of cash in room
4. Presence of multiple computers, cell phones, pagers, credit card swipes, or other technology
5. Children's items or clothing but no child registered with the room
6. Excessive amounts of alcohol, illegal drugs, or sex paraphernalia in rooms, condoms in mass quantity, and/or garbage cans containing many used condoms
7. Refusal of cleaning services for multiple days, especially when excessive linens or amenities are requested
8. Overly smelly room (cigarette, marijuana, sweat, bodily fluids and musk)
9. Minibar in need of constant restocking, especially with children staying in room
10. Individuals leaving room infrequently, not at all, or at odd hours; constant flow of men to a room at all hours
11. Individuals hanging out in lobby, hallways, or outside of the room, or appearing to monitor the area
12. Excessive foot traffic in and out of a room (or rooms rented by the same person)
13. Minors left alone in room for long periods of time
14. Excessive number of people staying in a room
15. Provocative clothing and shoes
16. Extended stay with few or no personal possessions
17. Excessive or multiple amounts of personal hygiene products (lubrication, douches, etc.)
18. Shades or curtains always drawn on outward facing room
19. Presence of photography equipment (cameras, video cameras, lighting, etc.) in room

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GUEST SERVICES WARNING SIGNS

GUEST SERVICES WARNING SIGNS FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

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1. Individuals checking into room appear distressed, coerced, or injured
2. Few or no personal possessions carried in small or plastic bags
3. Non-guest minors who are dropped off at the hotel or visit repeatedly over a period of time; patron with minor who was not identified or present at check-in
4. Individuals dropped off at the hotel or visit repeatedly over a period of time
5. Individuals checking into room have no identification
6. Patron requesting information or access to adult services or to local sex industry
7. Excessive use of hotel computers for adult oriented websites
8. Rentals of pornography when children are staying in the room
9. Minor with patron late night or during school hours (and not on vacation)
10. Room is rented less than a day, or for irregular long-term stay
11. Room rented has fewer beds than patrons
12. Individuals hanging out in lobby, hallways, or outside of the room, or appearing to monitor the area
13. No freedom of movement or constantly monitored; avoids interaction with others
14. Averts eyes or does not make eye contact, especially with a "boyfriend"
15. Lack of knowledge about current/past whereabouts; exhibits loss of a sense of time
16. Dressed inappropriate for age, has lower quality clothing than companions, or is wearing clothing inappropriate for weather conditions or surroundings
17. Appears to be with a significantly older "boyfriend" or in the company of older males
18. Treated in a demeaning or aggressive manner or evidence of verbal threats

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GENERAL HOTEL WARNING SIGNS

GENERAL HOTEL WARNING SIGNS FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

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1. Excessive foot traffic in and out of a room (or rooms rented by the same person)
2. Individuals leaving room infrequently, not at all, or at odd hours
3. Individuals hanging out in lobby, hallways, or outside of the room, or appearing to monitor the area
4. Extended stay with few or no personal possessions
5. Excessive amounts of alcohol, illegal drugs, or sex paraphernalia in rooms, condoms in mass quantity, and/or garbage cans containing many used condoms
6. Overly smelly room (cigarette, marijuana, sweat, bodily fluids, and musk)
7. Patron requesting information or access to adult services or to local sex industry
8. Non-guest minors who are dropped off at the hotel or visit repeatedly over a period of time; patron with minor who was not identified or present at check-in
9. Few or no personal possessions carried in small or plastic bags
10. No freedom of movement or constantly monitored; avoids interaction with others
11. Averts eyes or does not make eye contact, especially with a "boyfriend"
12. Lack of knowledge about current/past whereabouts; exhibits loss of a sense of time
13. Individuals without access to their own ID, cell phone, or money
14. Dressed inappropriate for age, has lower quality clothing than companions, or is wearing clothing inappropriate for weather conditions or surroundings
15. Appears to be with a significantly older "boyfriend" or in the company of older males
16. Treated in a demeaning or aggressive manner or evidence of verbal threats
17. Injuries/signs of physical abuse or torture, such as bruises, burns, scars and/or malnourishment
18. Suspicious tattoos, marks, or branding, especially on girls (e.g. a tattoo of the trafficker's name, or that reflects money or ownership; two or more individuals with the same tattoo/mark; tattoos on the hands, neck, and face)

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FRONT DESK WARNING SIGNS

FRONT DESK WARNING SIGNS FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

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Incidents of **multiple signs** are the best indication. Consider these to be red flags.

1. Individuals checking into room appear distressed, coerced, or injured
2. Few or no personal possessions carried in small or plastic bags
3. No freedom of movement or constantly monitored; avoids interaction with others
4. Averts eyes or does not make eye contact, especially with a "boyfriend"
5. Appears to be with a significantly older "boyfriend" or in the company of older males
6. Treated in a demeaning or aggressive manner or evidence of verbal threats
7. Patrons not forthcoming about full names, home address, or vehicle information when Registering
8. Patron appears with a minor that he did not come with originally
9. Individuals dropped off at the hotel or visit repeatedly over a period of time
10. Individuals checking into room have no identification
11. Patron requesting information or access to adult services or to local sex industry
12. Room paid for with cash or rechargeable credit card
13. Excessive use of hotel computers for adult oriented websites
14. Minor taking on adult roles or behaving older than actual age (paying bills, requesting services)
15. Rentals of pornography when children are staying in the room
16. Minor with patron late night or during school hours (and not on vacation)
17. Room is rented hourly, less than a day, or for an abnormal long-term stay; guests continue to extend visit day-to-day
18. Room rented has fewer beds than patrons
19. Individuals hanging out in lobby, hallways, or outside of the room, or appearing to monitor the area
20. Requesting rooms that have a "sight" advantage (such as on the second floor and to be able to see cars coming in and out of the parking lot and on the main street)

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