

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Concerning the activities of

ECPAT BELGIUM



ECPAT Belgium

Exterminate the Sexual Exploitation of Children

EDITORIAL



For the whole world, 2020 will have been a year of unprecedented challenges and obstacles. Despite this confrontation, ECPAT Belgium will ruthlessly continue its fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

Contrary to the expectation that violence against children would disappear during the pandemic, this phenomenon actually increased. Many organizations reported an increase in the number of reports, especially during lockdown. In particular, cases of online sexual exploitation have more than tripled during this period.

More than ever, the work of ECPAT Belgium is an absolute priority. To meet these challenges, it was necessary to raise the awareness of many professionals, to continue equipping children so that they learn to protect themselves and others, and to talk about sexual exploitation in a society that sometimes doesn't seem to see it.

The year 2020 also marks the 30th anniversary of the ECPAT movement. What started as a campaign by a small group of people to fight child prostitution in Asia is now the largest global network to combat the sexual exploitation of children, with 118 member organizations in 102 countries. While we are very proud of what has been achieved over the past 30 years, we must continue to work together to protect every child.

The end of this year is also an opportunity for us to honor the work of Ariane Couvreur, who has been the coordinator of ECPAT Belgium for 10 years. A big thank you to her for all the expertise she has put into ECPAT, her patience and perseverance, her commitment, and her many human qualities. It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to her, but we wish her the best for the future.

We are delighted to welcome Atifa Boulafdal, the new coordinator of ECPAT Belgium, who joined us in January 2021. Atifa brings her many years of experience in private and social entrepreneurship, which will greatly benefit ECPAT Belgium!

Emmanuelle Vacher, member of the Board of Directors of ECPAT Belgium

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TRAINING PROFESSIONALS

The CAPISCE-project

Since October 2019, ECPAT Belgium has been a partner of the CAPISCE project. The aim of the project is to **strengthen the protection of child victims of trafficking during judicial proceedings.**

The project is based on the principle that the rights of victims of trafficking should be understood and respected, and that they should be given adequate protection during the investigation and criminal proceedings, including the protection of such rights.



In this context, ECPAT Belgium is developing modules **to train interpreters on child trafficking.** Interpreters play an extremely important role in upholding children's right to understand and be understood. Therefore, they should be informed about the specificities of the interpretation of the testimonies of minors who are victims of trafficking in human beings. To develop the content of the training modules, ECPAT Belgium organized a consultation workshop with professionals from different sectors. The modules, which are almost ready, will include several parts: definition of human trafficking, terminology, psychological aspects, ethics, and scenarios.

The CAPISCE project is also an opportunity to **start research on the protection of child victims of trafficking in judicial proceedings.** A study on this subject will be published in Belgium, France, Italy and the Netherlands, with an accompanying summary. A first meeting was held on February 5, 2020 to define the research methodology and timeline. It was also an

opportunity to exchange good practices and difficulties at national level. The research appears to be both necessary and promising.

Finally, this project enabled ECPAT Belgium to produce two videos in which Nadia Ounifi (coordinator of the Federal Police) and Charline Malaise (psychologist Esperanto) explain how the police interrogation and the therapeutic interview of child victims of trafficking in human beings work, and why the role of the interpreter is so important.

Cripel Conference: Protecting UFM's against sexual exploitation and human trafficking

Unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs) are an extremely easy prey for traffickers and abusers, during their migratory journey but also in Belgium. What forms do the sexual exploitation of children and the trafficking of minors take in Belgium? Who are the perpetrators, who are the victims? What measures are being taken to protect these extremely vulnerable minors?

ECPAT Belgium had the pleasure of explaining these different issues on February 14, 2020, at the Regional Center for Integration for Foreigners or Persons of Foreign origin in Liège (Cripel).

Presentation of the ECPAT network to the EUCPN

The EUCPN is the European Crime Prevention Network.

The network aims to connect local, national and European levels and to promote knowledge and practice of crime prevention in EU Member States.

This year, ECPAT Belgium had the opportunity to present the movement, its work and good practices to EUCPN professionals.

Sexual exploitation training

What are the different forms of sexual exploitation of children? What are the consequences? What does the law say and what are the existing tools to protect children? On September 17, 2020, ECPAT Belgium, in collaboration with Defense for Children International Belgium, organized and presented **a training course on the sexual exploitation of children**. During the training, the various questions of the participants, mostly lawyers, were successfully answered. This day was also an opportunity to make them aware of the very current issue of online exploitation, child trafficking, the signals that make it possible to detect it, as well as the procedure to be followed in such situations.

Future professionals

Room for new ideas: student competition

In February, April and November, ECPAT Belgium challenged students from PXL Hasselt and Isalt to devise creative youth-friendly campaigns to educate and encourage them to report child sexual abuse while travelling. Innovative ideas were put forward and although a winner had to be chosen, the work was impressive!



These competitions are also an opportunity to inform and educate future travel and tourism experts about the issue of sexual exploitation in a fun and participative way.

Children's rights and tourism

Raising awareness among future travel and tourism professionals

about child sexual exploitation is one of the main missions of ECPAT Belgium. Therefore the organization addressed the schools Howest Kortrijk and ISALT on October 9th and December 4th. This year, ECPAT was given the opportunity to focus online on the prevention, detection and response to child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism as well as addressing children's rights. **This will make many future professionals more aware of the potential abuse they may face and their role in protecting children.**

AWARENESS

The big public

In order to make the travelling public aware of the problem of sexual exploitation, ECPAT Belgium has been participating in tourism fairs for several years. In 2020, ECPAT Belgium will participated in four fairs: the smallest took place at the HEPH Condorcet school, while the larger ones were held in Antwerp, Brussels and Liège.

Running a booth at these events led to a finding: while **more than 1000 visitors were able to be made aware of the issue**, raising the issue of child sexual exploitation to the wider public remains complicated. Many find the subject too difficult or believe that they will never be confronted with it. Nevertheless, some of the people approached decided to become more involved in the defense of the association and its missions. Even though it's still a minority, it's an encouraging sign.

Children, youth and people at risk



PAG-ASA Training

On August 7, with all the necessary health precautions, ECPAT Belgium gave an e-safety training at PAG-ASA, a center for victims of human trafficking. Thank you to the participants for their motivation and enthusiasm!

(Dé)clic- project

The (Dé)clic project, aimed at online safety by and for young people, continued to evolve in 2020 through the creation of new working tools (manuals, presentations, ...), which are more modern and in which the emerging social networks are integrated. Unfortunately, due to the health context, the events planned for this year had to be postponed. We hope that ECPAT Belgium can again visit classes and reception centers for foreign minors in 2021, so that children and young people can learn about this prominent topic.

I say stop campaign

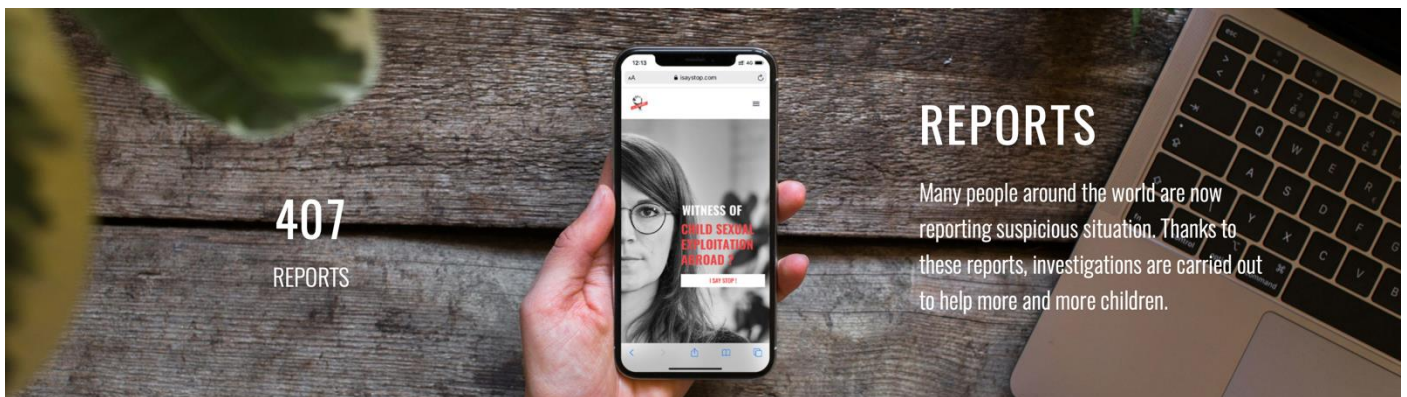
On the occasion of the European Day against the Sexual Exploitation and Sexual abuse of children, ECPAT Belgium launched its new campaign "I say STOP! ".



The aim of this campaign is to make the general public, travelers but also professionals from the tourism sector aware of the problem of sexual exploitation of children in the travel and tourism sector. On the website specially created for this campaign, it is possible to report online sexual abuse that is detected during a trip abroad.

A simple, effective gesture that can help a child in danger.

Have you witnessed abuse? Report it on <https://isaystop.com>. You will also find our campaign videos (10), 4 new posters, as well as the information necessary to know whether a situation is suspicious and which follow-up is reserved for your report.



This campaign is an initiative of the STOP group, a collective of NGOs, institutional, public and private actors who have been working for many years against the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

COLLABORATE

At European level

European Conference Berlin

On March 2, representatives of the government, police, the travel and tourism industry and civil society from seven European countries gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Don't Look Away campaign at an international meeting of experts from the European project "Alert Actors Report" held in Berlin (Germany), to end the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. This meeting was **an occasion to present good practices at the national level, tackle the challenges related to the digitalization of tourism and strengthen cooperation between partners** at European level. ECPAT Belgium had the great pleasure of presenting the "I say STOP" campaign and the various initiatives of the STOP group in Belgium. At the end of the meeting, the participants drew up an action plan and committed themselves to taking concrete actions to improve the protection of children in tourism and to promote the "Don't-Look-Away" campaign.

Workshop KOUTCHA

This institutional meeting, organized within the framework of the KOUTCHA project, aimed to improve cross-border collaboration in the care of child victims of trafficking in human beings.

After all, it is clear that the management of these cases poses many challenges and that child victims of trafficking who have to move from France to Belgium (or vice versa) do not always receive the protection to which they are entitled.

ECPAT Belgium therefore organized, in collaboration with its partners from ECPAT France, Esperanto and the KOUTCHA Association, a workshop that brought together professionals from both countries and different

sectors to discuss the findings and dysfunctions, but also to identify good practices and concrete methods for improvement. An instructive and reflective workshop, which should lead to better reception of child victims of human trafficking between France and Belgium.

This project also led to the guide "From the design to the creation of a safe and secure center dedicated to the reception of child victims of human trafficking on the site and social networks. Association KOUTCHA, Esperanto and ECPAT". It provides an overview of the relevant practices, both internal and external, regarding the organizational and functional aspects specific to the mandate of such a center (HR, educational project, partnerships, systems and protocols, legislation, etc.). This guide is therefore the result of the combined views of professionals from the associations KOUTCHA and Esperanto, who were confronted with the implementation of this project in France."

Other meetings and events

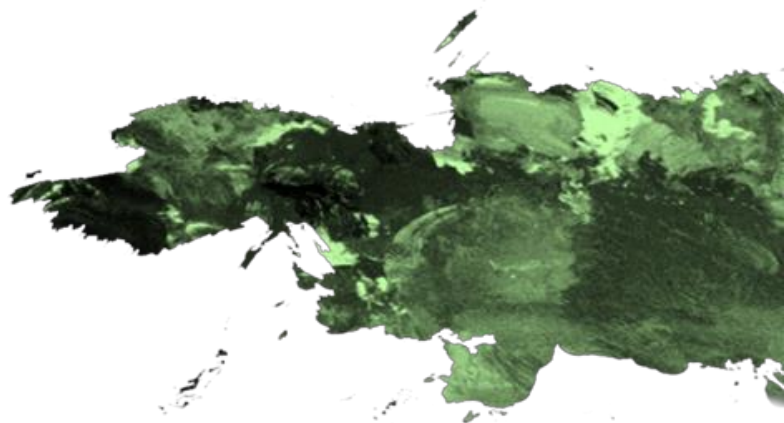
This year, ECPAT Belgium had the pleasure of continuing its European collaboration, in particular with the Initiative for Children in Migration, the Intergroup on Children's Rights and the EU Civil Society Platform. The latter enabled ECPAT Belgium to present the latest projects of the ECPAT group on behalf of ECPAT International. In the same spirit, numerous webinars were organized and participated in the year 2020, on topics as diverse as Istanbul Convention compliance, children's rights, sexual exploitation of children online, digital solutions, reporting and freedom of speech, protection against all forms of violence,

On July 7th, ECPAT Belgium was able to enter into an informal discussion with the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, Mama Fatima Singhateh.

At the Belgian level

At the Belgian level, ECPAT Belgium continued its cooperation with members of NGO coalitions for the rights of the child, CODE on French side and KIRECO on the Dutch side.

ECPAT also actively participated in several working groups of the organization Child Focus.



ANALYZE TO BETTER ADVOCATE

Analysis and studies

In 2020, ECPAT Belgium addressed the current situation and published several analyzes and studies:

"What quality standards for child sexual abuse reporting sites?" This study examines the quality standards that reporting lines must meet for cases of child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. In order for these sites to function properly and follow up complaints, members will now have to meet a number of quality criteria. These criteria are a practical tool intended for personnel who manage or want to set up these reporting sites.

"COVID-19: Increases Risk of Child Abuse en Sexual Exploitation"

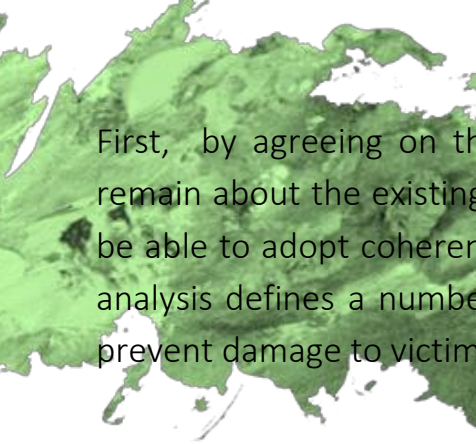
the COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on the entire world. While the planet is now in a state of slow motion, sexual predators never stop and constantly adapt. Many factors caused by this health crisis make it easier to perpetuate violence, especially against children. What is the impact of COVID-19 on children? What can be done to protect them, especially from sexual exploitation and abuse?



In the report **"Minors and the pornography consumption: the difficult balance between limiting and supporting"**, the French Senate announced its intention to strengthen the protection of minors from exposure to pornographic content. To do this, it passed an amendment, approved by the National Assembly in January, imposing an age check on operators of pornographic websites. Until now, users only had to check a completely symbolic box to confirm their age of majority before being able to access the content on offer. Why is it problematic for minors to view pornographic content? Is it desirable to completely ban access? And what does the law say in Belgium?

Legal analysis of boys' research, the purpose of this analysis is to make an inventory of Belgian legislation and the provisions contained therein regarding the protection of children, and in particular boys, against sexual exploitation.

Analysis of the Terminology Guide for protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Communication is essential to effectively combat the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. The big question is how can we ensure that it contributes to effective protection of victims?



First, by agreeing on the vocabulary used. Indeed, many disagreements and confusions remain about the existing concepts. An adequate use of language and terms is necessary to be able to adopt coherent and strong laws and policies in response to these problems. This analysis defines a number of key concepts that ECPAT Belgium advises to adopt to use to prevent damage to victims.

Contributions

In 2020, ECPAT Belgium contributed to many works and researches.

Call for comments on CEDAW's draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls (May 2020)

This ECPAT International submission, sent by ECPAT Belgium, responds to the CEDAW Committee's call to comment on the draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration. This dissertation contains contributions made by the ECPAT network for the purpose of this call.

Call for proposals for the UN thematic report on rape (May 2020)

ECPAT Belgium and International were delighted to contribute to the thematic report on rape that the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women will present to the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2020. Ms. Dubravka Šimonović has prepared a short questionnaire on the state's responsibility to criminalize and prosecute rape, which may be of interest to many of you working to end gender-based violence against girls and young women.

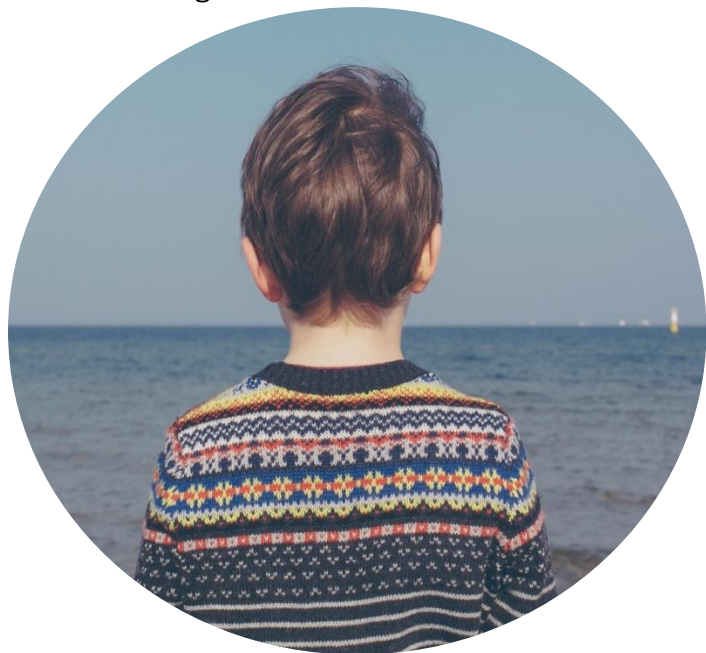
Contribution of the Civil Society Platform to the 3rd Progress Report (May 2020)

This contribution by ECPAT Belgium and Esperanto took place in the context of the preparatory work for the European Commission's 3rd progress report on progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, in accordance with Article 20 of the Directive on combating trafficking in human beings.

About the impact of COVID-19

Children's Rights Coalition and NGO Coordination for the rights of the child (April 2020):

these contributions from ECPAT Belgium were based on the analysis on the same topic (see above).



OSCE-ODIHR (May 2020): The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), develop short- and medium-term policy recommendations based on data collected through surveys of trafficking survivors and frontline workers, to ensure the implementation of a human rights-based, gender-sensitive and victim-centered

approach to trafficking in persons during and after COVID-19. ECPAT Belgium contributed to these recommendations.

In May 2020, the "Sterk Sociaal Werk BXL" platform of the "Flemish Ministry of Welfare and Society" surveyed 105 social workers in Brussels, including ECPAT Belgium, about the impact of the health crisis on their target groups and their work. The aim is to give social work a voice and make governments aware of the social impact of the COVID pandemic. During this crisis, a common need and awareness grew to work with the most vulnerable families and youth in Brussels.

Protection of human rights during and after COVID-19 (June 2020): The Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children has started preparing her first thematic report to the Human Rights Council to examine how the COVID-19 crisis further threatens to deteriorate the situation of children most vulnerable to sexual sale and exploitation. A call was launched to invite all interested parties and submit their contributions by answering a few open-ended questions contained in a common questionnaire developed by several

dedicated mandate holders procedures. ECPAT Belgium contributed to this questionnaire for ECPAT International.

Investigating the impact of COVID-19 on Child Sexual Abuse Crimes - Netclean (June 2020): This year's report focused on whether the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on crimes and investigations related to child sexual abuse. ECPAT Belgium has contributed to this.

Call for contribution - EU Strategy to Combat Child Sexual Abuse (June 2020)

The European Commission is preparing an European strategy to combat child sexual abuse, which primarily focuses on the prevention of abuse, the role of law enforcement and the support of victims.

ECPAT International considers it very important to ensure that this strategy covers the right areas and also firmly integrates the issues related to the sexual exploitation of children. In this regard, ECPAT Belgium contributed to a response highlighting certain considerations in the roadmap.

Survey: views of members of the European Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings, Edinburgh Napier University (July 2020)

This survey aims to determine to what extent members of the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings (CSP) regard their organizations as key participants and contribute to the EU policy-making process on human trafficking in the EU. It seeks to identify examples of best practices and areas for improvement regarding civil society participation in the policy-making process.

Call for contributions - New EU strategy for the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (July 2020)

Through this contribution, ECPAT International, through ECPAT Belgium, has provided a critical analysis of the initiatives undertaken so far, with regard to lessons learned, the knowledge gained on what has worked and what can be improved, the remaining obstacles and the main aspects to focus on in order to fight crime effectively, regarding the internal and external dimension of trafficking in human beings, including international cooperation.

Call for Comments - General CRC Comment on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment (September 2020)

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is currently preparing its next general comment on children's rights in the digital environment surroundings. She therefore invited all interested parties to comment on the project. ECPAT International, with the support of ECPAT Belgium, has submitted a report to ensure that the various aspects of child sexual exploitation online are not neglected in the final General Comment.

Public consultation on the EU strategy on the Rights of the Child (November 2020)

The new strategy on the Rights of the Child will provide the framework for the EU action to better promote and protect children's rights. It will contain a series of measures that the EU will have to implement, relating to the rights of the most vulnerable children, children's rights in the digital age, preventing and combating violence, promoting child-friendly justice. ECPAT Belgium replied to a questionnaire in the context of this consultation.

Contribution to the Children's Rights Action Plan (CRAP)

In 2020, ECPAT Belgium also had the opportunity to contribute to the new CRAP of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. This was an opportunity to remind people that violence includes sexual violence, and that it should not be forgotten. In fact, according to the Council of Europe, one child in five is a victim of sexual violence, so it is necessary to take concrete measures. While there is a federal action plan against human trafficking (including trafficking for sexual purposes), there is no federal, regional or community action plan against sexual violence against children.

Contribution to the motion for a resolution introduced by Zakia Khattabi, former general deputy of the House of Representatives and now Federal Minister

MARCHE 4 AOÛT 2020

POURQUOI : UN TEXTE DÉPOSÉ À LA CHAMBRE POUR COMBLER NOS LACUNES

Exploitation sexuelle des enfants : le S.O.S. des experts

Une lutte trop inégale, alors que le problème s'est aggravé pendant le confinement

Il y a deux semaines, Child Focus publiait une lettre ouverte. La Fondation d'urgence a l'intention d'organiser une conférence d'urgence à l'été 2020. Les experts ont écrit que pour lutter contre l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants, il faut agir sur trois axes : la prévention, la protection et la poursuite. La lettre a été envoyée à la Chambre des députés et à la Commission des affaires sociales.

« La lutte contre l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants est une tâche complexe et nécessite une approche globale. Les experts ont souligné que la prévention est la clé pour éviter que de nouveaux enfants ne soient victimes. Ils ont également insisté sur l'importance de la protection des victimes et de la poursuite des auteurs. La lettre a été envoyée à la Chambre des députés et à la Commission des affaires sociales. »

POUR LES BRÉSILIENS AINSI

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Quand Child Focus tire le signal d'alarme

Les chiffres ont explosé pendant le confinement

« Child Focus, l'association belge spécialisée dans la lutte contre l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants, a tiré le signal d'alarme. Les chiffres ont explosé pendant le confinement. L'association a reçu un grand nombre de signalements de victimes et de témoins. Elle a également constaté une augmentation des tentatives de recrutement de victimes. Les experts ont souligné que la prévention est la clé pour éviter que de nouveaux enfants ne soient victimes. Ils ont également insisté sur l'importance de la protection des victimes et de la poursuite des auteurs. La lettre a été envoyée à la Chambre des députés et à la Commission des affaires sociales. »

La députée Ecolo propose 25 mesures pour améliorer la lutte contre l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants

Khattabi : « Il faut un plan d'action national »

« La députée Ecolo, Zakia Khattabi, a proposé 25 mesures pour améliorer la lutte contre l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants. Elle a souligné que la prévention est la clé pour éviter que de nouveaux enfants ne soient victimes. Elle a également insisté sur l'importance de la protection des victimes et de la poursuite des auteurs. La lettre a été envoyée à la Chambre des députés et à la Commission des affaires sociales. »

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After a discussion with ECPAT Belgium, Zakia Khattabi, former MP in the House of Representatives, submitted a draft resolution to provide Belgium with ambitious tools in the fight against online sexual exploitation of children.

This motion for a resolution was extensively commented on and enriched by ECPAT Belgium, which can only congratulate the initiative!

In May 2020, the platform “Sterk Sociaal Werk BXL” under the “Flemish Ministry of Welfare and Society” surveyed 105 social workers in Brussels, including ECPAT Belgium, about the impact of the health crisis on both their target groups and their work. The aim is to give social work a voice

and educate governments about the social impact of the COVID pandemic. During this crisis, a common need and awareness has developed to work with the most vulnerable families and young people in Brussels.

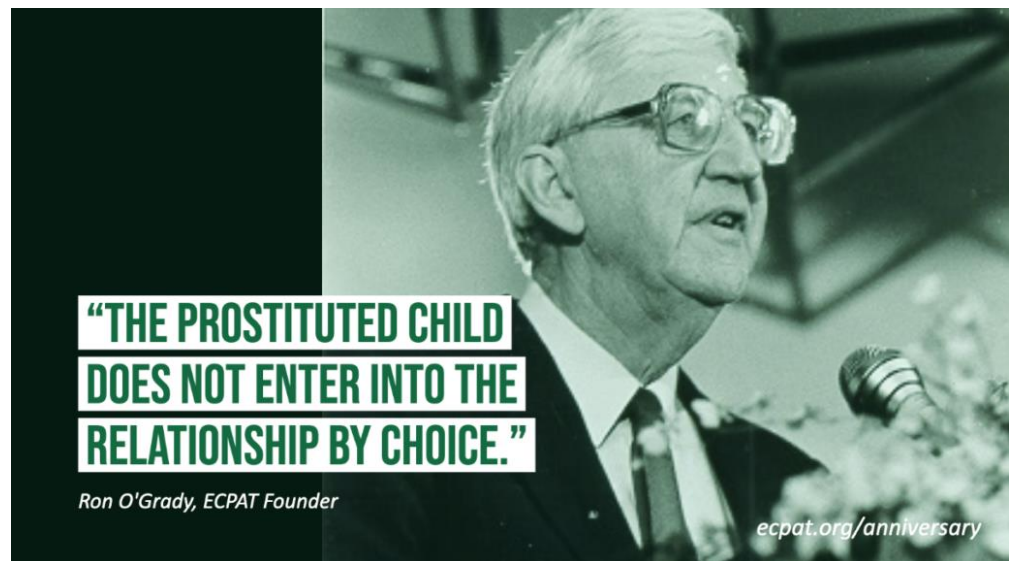
BEHIND THE SCENES

Focus on

30 years of ECPAT International

This year, 2020, was the 30th anniversary of ECPAT. What started as a small-group campaign fight child prostitution in Asia is now the largest global network to combat the sexual exploitation of children, with 118 member organizations in 102 countries. This is an opportunity to reflect on the actions of the ECPAT network.

At the end of the Vietnam war in 1975, tour operators began offering trips to Asia. Soon, many cases of sexual exploitation of children came to light. In 1987, the death of Rosario, a Filipino girl, aroused the sparked public outcry. After being sexually exploited by an Austrian doctor, the young girl died at the age of 12 from the effects of a vibrator that had been stuck inside her for 7 months.



It was during a tourism fair in 1990 that Ron O'Grady became aware of the magnitude of child exploitation. Shocked and outraged by the growing number of tourists travelling for the purpose of sexually exploiting children, Ron and other activists founded the End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) campaign in August 1990.

Gradually, ECPAT gathered new members and collaborated with various actors to fight against the sexual exploitation of children. For ECPAT, collaboration has always been an essential part of working in a network. Since 1998, the development of the Internet has had a strong impact on the sexual exploitation of children and consequently on the work of ECPAT. New technologies not only make it possible to quickly share and view child pornography, but they also facilitate contact between sex offenders and children.

Online sexual exploitation is an important issue in child protection and the ECPAT network has launched numerous advocacy campaigns to strengthen the protection of children in the law.

The various members of ECPAT have also set up training and awareness-raising activities for tourism professionals and young people to equip them with the tools to protect themselves. ECPAT Belgium has set up the (De)click project, a project about online safety by and for young people.

The current health situation

The pandemic, which affected many structures, has reached ECPAT Belgium.

Many events had to be cancelled or postponed, including a series of training activities, a play, an awareness campaign, and numerous training sessions. In this situation, however, children are undoubtedly among the most affected. As Child Focus reported, the number of cases has exploded with the numerous incarcerations: the number of reports of "grooming", i.e. adults approaching minors online with a view to sexual abuse, has tripled. The number of sexual extortion cases has increased by 118%, while the number of complaints about online sexual harassment of young people has doubled.

Social media's

The website of ECPAT Belgium was heavily visited in 2020. The numbers of subscribers on our social networks have increased significantly.



👍 1 028 personnes aiment ça

Insights

[Voir tout](#)

28 derniers jours : 11 déc - 7 jan ▼

Personnes touchées

11,575

▼34 %

Interactions avec les publications

814

▼19 %

ECPAT Belgium is present on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter. Join us!

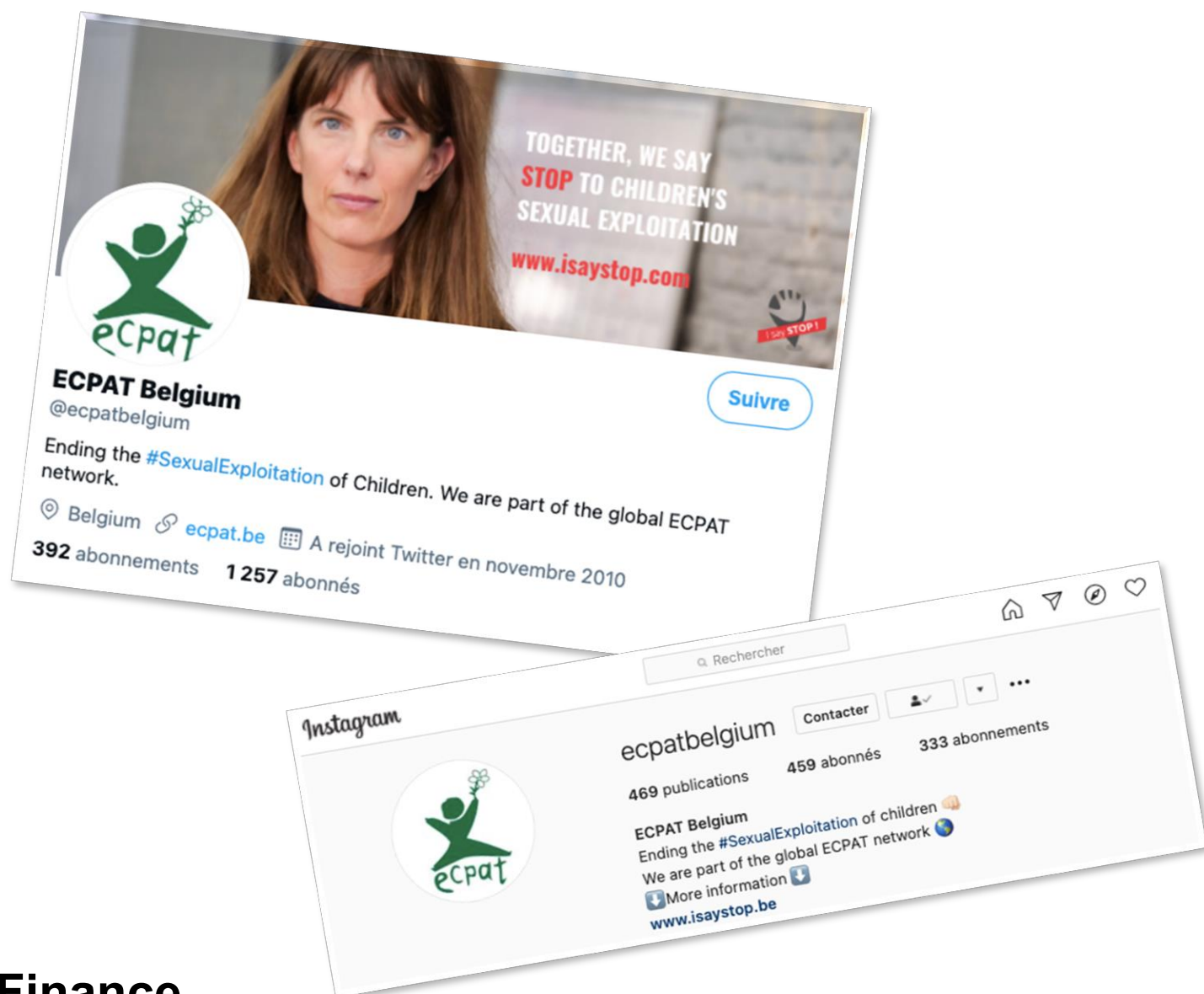


1214

Total d'abonnés

47 ▲42 %

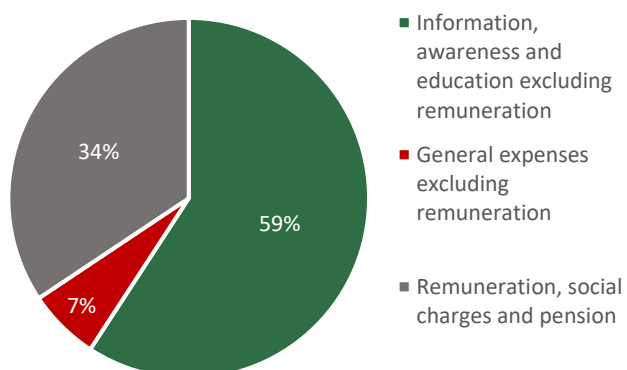
Nouveaux abonnés sur les 30 derniers jours



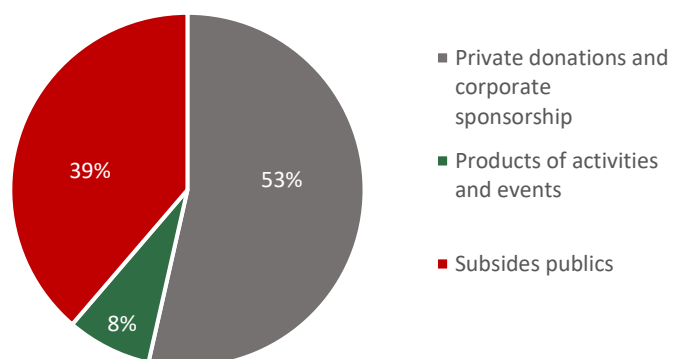
Finance

These charts are from temporary accounts and are subject to minor changes.

Charges 2020 (total € 165.884,25)



Products 2020 (total € 74.900)

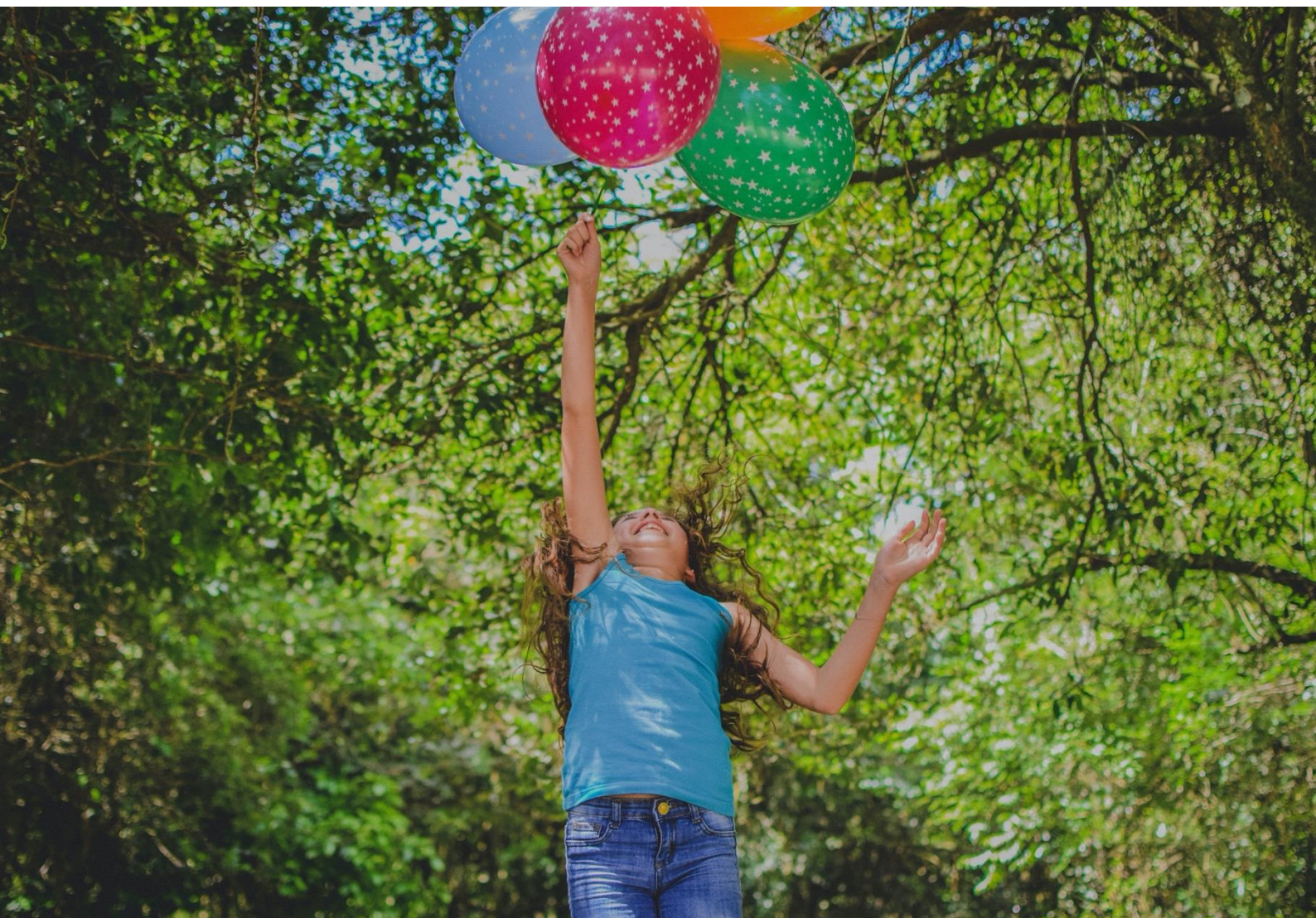


Thank You

Thank you to the volunteers who have personally committed themselves to ECPAT Belgium this year. A special thanks to Ariane Couvreur, coordinator and to the 2020 interns, whose work has been crucial, Alexia Gallucci, Rachel Ehrhart and Camille De Marchi.

Also thanks to the Board of Directors, David Boulanger, Katlijn Declercq and Emmanuelle Vacher, and to the members of the General Assembly, Isabelle De Maegt, Sophie Jekeler, Thomas Maertens, Milena Michel, Sofia Rebolledo, Danielle Van Kerckoven and Karl Wintgens.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our donors, without whom nothing would be possible. You give life to our actions.



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