

Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation by Voluntourists in South-East Asia



Protecting Children

Are You Thinking Like A Criminal?



What is your preferred destination?



In which sector will you volunteer?



What are your key considerations?



Rapid Assessment

Mar 2024

South Asia

Nepal

Maldives

Sri Lanka



South-East Asia

Cambodia

Indonesia

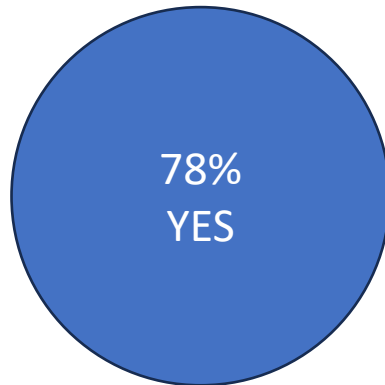
Lao PDR

Philippines

Thailand

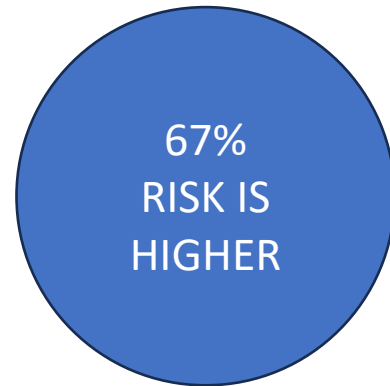
Vietnam

Has the situation of child sexual exploitation in tourism changed in your country since COVID?



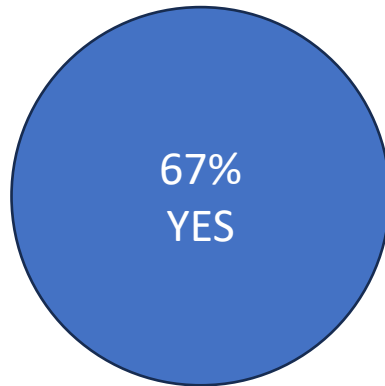
- Children are more vulnerable.
- Offenders are increasingly utilising online tools.
- Number of physical offenders is increasing again.
- Offenders are embedding themselves as volunteers in local NGOs, schools, and community development programs.

What is your opinion about the risk to children from foreign travellers in your country?



- Training for police diminished during COVID.
- Traveller numbers are returning to pre-COVID rates.
- Voluntourism opportunities are expanding.
- Demand for in-person exploitation is fuelled by online access.

Has there been a change in the modus operandi of foreign child sex offenders in your country since borders reopened after COVID?



Offenders are utilising legitimate organisations to access children.

- Voluntourism in organisations working with vulnerable children.
- Engaging in long-term grooming through local NGOs.

Offenders have turned to online opportunities.

- Online grooming.
- Live streaming child sexual exploitation materials (CSEM).
- Demand primarily from the US, UK, Australia, Canada and Europe.

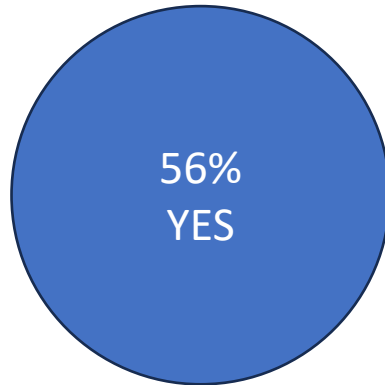
Do the police work closely with the voluntourism sector in your country?



Voluntourism is significantly under-regulated and under the radar.

- Offenders are known to utilise voluntourism as a guise for grooming.
- There is an absence of police engagement with the volunteer sector.
- The voluntourism sector is not yet sufficiently equipped for prevention.

Has your police agency been involved in any potential cases of exploitation relating to voluntourism in your country?



Police are only called when abuse is suspected.

- However, police wish to shift from a reactive to proactive approach.
- Police wish to work in partnership with the voluntourism sector to tighten child protection measures, including:
 - Introducing regulations for voluntourism.
 - Requiring pre-arrival police checks.
 - Coordinating with local agencies to establish voluntourism standards.

British teacher volunteering in Cambodia arrested for sexually abusing boys

Police raid British teacher's flat and 'find him sexually abusing young boys'



Steve Loryman, who was volunteering in Cambodia with his wife, has been arrested for child sex abuse after a raid on his flat in Phnom Penh

Cambodia Netherlands: Fugitive paedophile Pieter Ceulen arrested



The screenshot shows the INTERPOL website interface. At the top left is the INTERPOL logo with the tagline "CONNECTING POLICE FOR A SAFER WORLD". A search bar contains the text "Keyword" and "English". Navigation links include "HOME", "ABOUT INTERPOL", "NEWS AND MEDIA", "MEMBER COUNTRIES", "INTERPOL EXPERTISE", and "CRIME AREAS". Below the navigation bar, a "Back to Search result" link is visible. The main content area features a profile for "CEULEN, PIETER", who is wanted by the judicial authorities of Belgium. The profile includes a photograph and a list of identity particulars.

CEULEN, PIETER
WANTED BY THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES OF BELGIUM FOR PROSECUTION / TO SERVE A SENTENCE

IDENTITY PARTICULARS

- Present family name: **CEULEN**
- Forename: **PIETER**
- Sex: **Male**
- Date of birth: **17/06/1955 (60 years old)**
- Place of birth: **SAIGON, Viet nam**
- Language spoken:
- Nationality: **Netherlands**



UK pedophile abused poor Malaysian children while volunteering as English teacher

Yahoo and Agencies



Under the guise of humanitarian aid, high-profile paedophiles are abusing Nepali children

Loose laws, illiteracy and poverty, along with an unsuspecting welcome of foreigners, have turned Nepal into a haven for Western paedophiles.



Nepal jails Canadian former UN official for sexually abusing boys

Aid worker Peter Dalglish, 62, sentenced for abusing two boys, aged 12 and 14



📷 Peter Dalglish (C) had made his name advocating for street children, child labourers and those affected by war. Photograph: Janak Raj Sapkota/AP



Former Ottawa aid worker charged with more child sex-crimes

Gary Dimmock



French teacher from MOE Language
Centre arrested in Bangkok for sex with
minors



What are the best practices for child protection in voluntourism?



1. **Regulation and Oversight:** Governments and organizations to collaborate to establish and enforce regulations to safeguard children involved in voluntourism projects.
2. **Educational Programs:** Initiatives to educate both volunteers and local communities about child protection issues can help foster awareness and prevent potential risks.
3. **Community Empowerment:** Involving local communities in decision-making processes and ensuring their active participation can contribute to sustainable and culturally sensitive voluntourism initiatives.
4. **Background Checks and Screening:** Implementing thorough background checks for volunteers, including vetting organisations they are associated with, is crucial to identifying potential risks to children.

How can we strengthen child protection in voluntourism?
What part can you or your agency play?



Immigration – Committing to Protect Children’s Rights in Tourism



Training Frontline Officers



Advance Passenger Information



Airport Turnarounds



What can we do?



Thanks for your commitment to protect children from sexual exploitation in tourism and voluntourism.

