

The ECPAT UK Youth Newsletter

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Young people making change

protecting children everywhere

The ECPAT UK Youth Programme is now into its third year. I—Debbie Beadle, the Youth Programme Coordinator—joined ECPAT UK in July 2007 coming from a background in youth rights as the community trainer. In 2008, I led a film project with child victims of trafficking. This led me to design and implement the Youth Programme at ECPAT UK. In 2010, the Youth Programme became full time, kindly funded by The Body Shop.

The Youth Programme has become an integral part of ECPAT UK and our campaigns. My role is to ensure that children's rights and the voice of young people is seen and heard in all of our work. The programme has been recognised as a good practice example among our international colleagues, and myself and the young people have travelled to Brussels and Paris to share details of our programme (see page 2 for more).

The Youth Programme incorporates the involvement of youth in several ways. A major part of putting the voices of child victims of trafficking into our work is through the ECPAT UK Youth Group. This is a peer support group of young people, aged 15-21, who have been trafficked and exploited in the UK. The group meets on a weekly basis. They gain valuable life skills and also advocate for other young victims by developing projects that reflect on the UK response to child trafficking. I have been working with some of these young people for more than three years and am constantly amazed by their growth and determination to ensure that what happened to them doesn't happen to other young people.

This year saw the continuation of our Youth Panel, which is a group of young people passionate about the campaigns of ECPAT UK. Youth Panel members participated in the ECPAT UK campaigns and fed into our Schools Programme. ECPAT UK has delivered workshops in schools to young people on child trafficking in the UK. We have had a very full year - too much to fit into one newsletter - and we are looking forward to keeping up the fight against child trafficking.



Debbie Beadle, Youth Programme Coordinator

Christine Beddoe,
Director ECPAT UK

"The Youth Programme adds so much to our work. As a leading children's rights organisation we are passionate about promoting youth participation and ensuring the voices of young people are heard. The and knowledge we receive through our Youth Group strengthens our campaigns and keeps us focused on what is needed to fight against child exploitation."

ECPAT UK Youth Group exhibition at the Museum of London

ECPAT UK, Anti Slavery International and The Poppy Project came together on a project with the Museum of London to highlight modern-day slavery. ECPAT UK Youth Group and trafficked women

who receive help from The Poppy Project created a series of quilt patches which translated their experiences and feelings about being trafficked in the UK. The patches were displayed in the

Museum of London as part of their Modern Day Slavery Exhibition from August to December 2011.



Our trafficking DVD has its premiere

The ECPAT UK Youth Programme was awarded funding from Media Box to make a film about the UK response to child victims of trafficking. The film was created, filmed and edited by the ECPAT UK Youth Group. The process started with workshops reflecting on the main areas of concern for the young people. The content was created from an amalgamation of the young people's real-life stories. From this, a story board was developed. The young people filmed the content themselves and then edited it. A

professional editor came in to work with to support the young people in the final stages of the project. *The Story of Affia* was launched on 20th April 2011 at The Mermaid House Theatre and Conference Centre. The film was premiered to an audience of childcare, legal and policy professionals. The Youth Group facilitated a workshop and hosted a panel debate about the film. It has now



been distributed to hundreds of professionals to educate them on the experience of child victims of trafficking entering the UK.

If you would like to view and learn from *The Story Of Affia* please request a copy from Debbie:

D.Beadle@ecpat.org.uk

ECPAT UK Youth Programme recognised internationally

This year has seen the ECPAT UK Youth Programme travel internationally. In June 2011, the Youth Programme Coordinator met with ECPAT Europe colleagues in Brussels to share learning from the Youth Programme, discuss work over the past year, and hear future projects and priorities for 2012. Later that year, in November 2011, the Youth Programme Coordinator was joined by two members of the ECPAT UK Youth Group at the ECPAT International Assembly, in Paris. The young people ran a workshop called 'Engaging child victims of trafficking in policy and practice' and addressed an audience of more than 200 ECPAT colleagues from across the world. One of the young people talked about their own experiences. She said: "Before I had to speak I was very nervous, but once I got started it felt better and people were taking me seriously."



ECPAT UK's Debbie Beadle presenting in Paris

The Youth Group members also participated in a forum with other young people from global ECPAT groups to discuss how young people plan to work together to tackle child trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. There have been some funding bids for project partnering with our international colleagues so watch this space for 2012...

Our mentoring and befriending project brings benefits

This year saw the initiation of a partnership project with the Refugee Support Network (RSN) providing educational mentoring and befriending to young victims of trafficking. The project was initiated as a result of direct feedback from the young people highlighting the need for extra support with education and literacy. ECPAT UK and RSN provided specialised training for volunteers to

mentor young victims of trafficking with a specific focus on education. Young people were then paired with mentors who were suited to support their specific needs. The mentors provide support in a variety of ways, from basic reading and homework to job applications. The Youth Programme Coordinator has seen how much the project has benefited the young people. Debbie Beadle said: "Since the start of the

project I can see a difference in their confidence with their literacy in group work."

To find out more information about mentoring visit:

www.refugeesupportnetwork.org



ECPAT UK Youth Group goes to Number 10!

Members of the ECPAT UK Youth Group joined staff and supporters of ECPAT UK and The Body Shop to celebrate the handover of our petition calling for a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking. It was the largest ever petition handed to the current Government, attracting 735,889 signatures in the UK. The Youth Group members have been working hard to campaign for the UK Government to



People power in the streets on London

implement a system of guardianship. They visited stores and talked to people at their schools and churches, raising awareness about the issue and collecting signatures. On 12th May, the members of the Youth Group boarded a big yellow bus and toured around London. The bus was taken to Number 10 where ECPAT UK and the group, along with the actress Martine McCutcheon, handed over the petition to the Prime Minister, David Cameron.



Presenting our petition at Number 10 Downing Street

“I can’t believe how many people came. We had lots of whistles and were shouting and people were following us. Martine was so beautiful and nice” - ECPAT UK Youth Group Member

What Works For Us? project spreads its message

The What Works For us? project is a joint initiative with ECPAT UK, the National Working Group for Sexual Exploited Young People and Barnardo’s. It brings together young people in sexual exploitation services around the UK to consult and respond to services they receive. The project began in June 2010 and now is in its second year. This year included a piece of research which consulted young people from sexual exploitation services from across the UK.

This research was then distributed to all sexual exploitation services. The group has become respected and recognised as a group of young people who provide a high level of youth participation. Consultations have included organisations, such as the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), to discuss police responses, a meeting in parliament to highlight gaps in response to sexual exploitation and a presentation of our research findings to the English

Children’s Commissioner. A planning residential in the Lake District in August 2011 has led to the work plan for the coming year; we are now looking for funding for this project.

So watch this space...!



Schools help to raise awareness across the UK

ECPAT UK delivers workshops in schools across the UK to raise awareness about child trafficking and exploitation in tourism. The ECPAT UK school network was a valuable resource to promote the petition for the joint campaign with The Body Shop. The response from young people to the cause of child trafficking is overwhelming. We have also seen a rise in

the number of requests and calls we receive asking for information. ECPAT UK has developed a range of resources for schools, which are soon to be available on our website, www.ecpat.org.uk.

One teacher said: “It is so important for the children to understand this issue. We have brothels right here in Enfield and there may be children exploited within

them, being visited by people we know. We need to talk about this issue to everyone so that they are aware and start to think.”

“I never knew this happened. I think it is really important that more young people are aware of this issue” - School Pupil, Wycombe High School

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Do you work with young people who may have been trafficked?

The ECPAT UK Youth Group is a group of young people aged 15-21 who have been trafficked to the UK. The group meet on a weekly basis to support each other, develop life skills and to advocate for children's rights in the UK. If you are working with a young person who may be a victim of trafficking and would benefit from joining the ECPAT UK Youth Group, the criteria for referral is:

- Aged 15-21
- Practitioner concerns of trafficking
- Female only at present

Please contact Debbie Beadle: d.beadle@ecpat.org.uk; 0207 233 9887

If you have concerns about a child who may be in danger contact the police on 999

SUPPORT OUR WORK!

Please donate to ECPAT UK and help us fund our vital work protecting children from exploitation. Give at <http://www.justgiving.com/ecpatuk/donate> or, make a donation by cheque or postal order, made payable to ECPAT UK and send to ECPAT UK at: Grosvenor Gardens House, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0BS. Visit <http://www.ecpat.org.uk/content/support-us> for more information on becoming a 'friend' of ECPAT UK. Thank you.

World record row across the Atlantic Ocean!



In 2010, Debbie Beadle, the ECPAT UK Youth Programme Coordinator completed 30 challenges before she was 30 to raise money for ECPAT UK. This year, Debbie took on another huge challenge and rowed 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean unaided! Debbie teamed up with Julia Immonen, who came up with the idea, and Helen

Leigh, Kate Richardson and Katie Pattison-Hart. Debbie had never rowed before agreeing to do the challenge, but due to changes at the last minute, Debbie became skipper of the team on their seven-meter, ocean-rowing boat. Things were not easy: the team suffered from severe sea sickness and they encountered numerous breakages and electrical faults, including the loss of their water maker. This meant that the team had to spend a lot of time fixing the boat and pumping water from a hand pump. None of the setbacks deterred the team and they stormed into Barbados after 45 days at sea,

achieving two world records. They were the first female team of five and the fastest females across the Atlantic Ocean ever. The young people in the ECPAT UK Youth Group followed Debbie's progress and sent the team messages through the SAT phone to help them along. One read:

"We miss you so much, come back soon..."

For more information about Row For Freedom, visit www.ecpat.org.uk.

You can hear all about Debbie's experiences with Row For Freedom at a series of special events at ECPAT UK's National Training Centre this summer. Join us for a glass of wine and hear about the tribulations of life at sea, and why Debbie wanted to raise awareness of child trafficking. Visit www.ecpat.org.uk/training for dates or contact training@ecpat.org.uk.

