

## ECPAT's Efforts in Handling Child Sex Tourism Cases in Indonesia in 2018 – 2020 Case Study: Bali

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### Abstract

Received: 5 Juni 2022  
Revised: 10 Juni 2022  
Accepted: 13 Juni 2022

The basis of this research is inspired by the rapid growth of tourism activities and technological development that are increasingly accessible. Therefore, it is easy for foreigners to carry out the Child Sex Tourism cases in several regions, currently it will be focused on areas of Bali that are visited by many foreigners for vacation. The growing progress of tourism that leads to commercial sexual exploitation of children must be concern of the government and non-governmental organizations that can help eradicate Child Sex Tourism. This organization is called ECPAT, which is an international organizational that assists and responds to cases of child exploitation or sexual crimes. This research is used human security theory and behavioralism approach. Research methodology uses qualitative research with literature study techniques sourced from several literature such as articles, journals, annual reports from various institutions and real data to support the research. The research conducted can be supported by justice and spreading education on social media.

**Keywords:** Child Sex Tourism, ECPAT, Tourism, Economy

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**How to Cite:** Sari, V., Rifa'i, M., & Gustianti, N. (2024). ECPAT's Efforts in Handling Child Sex Tourism Cases in Indonesia 2018 - 2020 (Case Study: Bali). *International Journal of Education, Information Technology, and Others*, 7(1), 160-169. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10512959>

### INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a uniqueness that is visited by many foreign tourists either for vacation, work or residence. Tourism in Indonesia invites many foreign tourists to vacation in various regions in Indonesia, which is widely known for its cultural characteristics. Tourism consists of three elements, namely humans, people who are traveling or on vacation, both in the area, place, and time of residence in the tourist area (Wardana, 2017, p. 9). Tourism in the study of international relations according to researchers focuses a lot on problems or issues such as, hard power, soft power, traditional, non-traditional threats and other issues. In addition, tourism has also become iconic and the image of the world. Tourism is one of the factors in developing a country's economic improvement. In a tourism there are many motives – motives of crime that enter tourism in Indonesia. Every year, every Indonesian childrens experiences an increase in sexual crimes. Many children are trapped in the mode of sexual crimes. With many motives carried out by unscrupulous individuals to undergo prostitution activities on minors. Indonesia is a developing country with many tourist opportunities, diverse ethnic cultures, and customs. This research focuses on the efforts of the government and non-governmental organizations in eradicating child sex tourism in Bali. Bali is a tourist destination that is very liked and visited by many foreign tourists. Therefore, in the course of travel, some foreign tourists have certain goals, either positive or negative. Bali became the first case of pedophilia 5 in Indonesia,

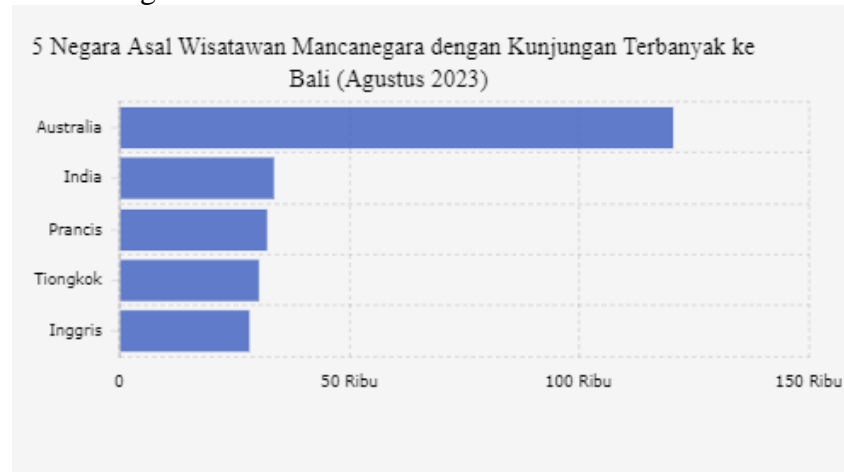
namely with the proof of exploitation cases or Child Sex Tourism that occurred in Bali, the target of individuals, namely minors, victims, individuals who do a lot of deviant activities are on average foreign tourists who are on vacation to Bali by various modes and promises given. (Wild Asia, 2020). Therefore, this research will be analyzed through data obtained from the author to further examine the circumstances and facts revealed actually. So this study aims to eradicate Child Sex Tourism either through law or support assistance from international and non-governmental organizations.

Cases that occur in violence or sexual crimes in children are certainly not far from the form of Paedophilia. Sexual crimes against children are found in schools and in areas where we live. The incidence of sexual violence in children causes trauma and psychological health in children where children do not dare to tell the truth to parents. Cases experienced in Bali as an example have occurred a lot, namely Child Sex Tourism such as in bars, spas, hotels and also in karaoke places. In general, we can see a lot of prostitution, coercion and violence committed by tourists to minors. This phenomenon certainly has a big impact on children's psychic and mental health. Cases of Child Sex Tourism are found, for example, in Bali red lights, especially in the Legian, Seminyak, Sanur, Denpasar, Lovina, Ubud, and Singaraja areas. Child Sex Tourism is something that deserves to be followed up because it has resulted in many damaged children's mentality, trauma and closed attitudes because this practice is illegal that needs to be considered and followed up to be resolved through the development of the Child Protection Law. This Child Sex Tourism activity can not only be done by foreign people but can be from the local area itself. This activity does not look at either family, relatives or strangers. So, Child Sex Tourism can be done anywhere and regardless of age and gender than children, but because this case affects a lot of underage children.

Child crime peaked in Southeast Asia in 2018 according to ECPAT, due to low concern from governments or child protection organizations in Southeast Asian countries, increased tourism, and the internet which triggered problems in online prostitution, Child Sex Tourism. The increase in tourism is not safely guarded which has led to many sex offenders committing their acts. Meanwhile, based on the organization Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, (RAINN), sexual activities carried out can be in the form of, digital activities, for example telephone activities, short messages or as now the use of social media, for example Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and other applications. Increasingly, advanced tourism and ease of access to enter the region can also be a threat to people who enter into the tourism. Child Sex Tourism is strictly prohibited and is not tolerated or allowed because it involves human rights and the protection of the child. The factors causing the incident are due to economic factors (ECPAT Indonesia, 2019). The quick action taken was to take the case to an international organization called ECPAT. ECPAT, which has an extensive network of cooperation between countries, helps the rights of children easily. ECPAT and GIPI in cooperation to form a Down to Zero program for Child Sex of Tourism. GIPI has analyzed the number of sexual exploitation activities against children in the tourism sector which are a threat and an important problem for the protection of children in Indonesia, therefore ECPAT and GIPI collaborated in preventing child sexual exploitation in the tourism sector in signing a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU). Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Bali Province in September 2023, foreign tourists visiting Bali were around 508,350 visits, down 2.64% compared to the previous month which had 522,141 visits.

Figure 1. The Current of Number Tourism in Bali



Source: Databook – Kata Data (2023)

The following data on foreign visits that can be seen through tourists vacationing in the Bali area. Australia, India, France, China and the United Kingdom are foreign tourists who often vacation in the Bali area even from previous years these tourists choose their tourism destinations to Bali. KBRN, Denpasar stated that in 2023 there was a decrease from the previous year against women's violence, which was 97 cases for 2023 and in the previous year which was 152 cases.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted with a qualitative approach that uses research methods to examine problems in individuals and the social environment in order to produce a picture in a series of words that reveal detailed data results from reliable information sources (Creswell, 2021: 7). The results of this qualitative approach explain about international organizations and ECPAT's actions in responding to the case of Child Sex Tourism in the Bali area. With this, ECPAT as an international organization is expected to provide a solution in solving or increasing child sexual tourism crimes in the Bali area. This research uses individual security theory (human security) and the concept of international organizations.

### 1). Personal Security

This approach in the Copenhagen School security studies presented by Buzan, Weaver and de Wilde (1998) reveals that the discipline of international relations is required to broaden the object of reference by not only questioning "state security" but also "human security." According to Buzan, security has something to do with survival problems. It is because of this oppression from the state to individuals and society that has become the main cause that produces a movement for the implementation of a comprehensive security policy that includes components of human security. The concept of human security in

individual security plays a central role in protecting children from sexual exploitation. The importance of individual security in the context of child sexual exploitation reflects a holistic aspect of protection and involves attention to economic, physical, psychological, and social factors. In essence, the concept of non – traditional security is not related to physical crime but has seen individual security (Septa, 2018).

## 2). International Organisation

According to Teuku May Rudy, international organizations are cooperative activities to penetrate a country's conflict with a clear organizational design and carry out its functions in a sustainable manner to achieve common goals (Rudy, 2009). International organizations are the formation of a rational forum to achieve a common goal such as Multinational Corporations (MNCs), Intergovernmental organizations (IGO's), Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) that regulate an action or state action in a particular field. In the formation of international organizations, it is necessary to instill three criteria that must be met, (Archer, 1992), among others: (1) Membership, in the organization there must be members who are not limited, but must be official representatives of the state so that there is cooperation between fellow members. (2) Ujud, the establishment of an organization can provide encouragement in achieving common interests and goals. (3) Formal structure, the development of an international organization that has a strategy or sustainability which is then stated and channeled into constituent agreements or documents.

Therefore, ECPAT which is a non-international organization (NGOs) must have characteristics that are in accordance with the establishment of international organizations because ECPAT is also located at the head office in Bangkok and various countries that are private, run by the organization itself, and has the aim of having a sustainability strategy in handling Child Sex Tourism cases in Bali.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Child**

According to the Law on Child Protection (Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 32 of 2002) Chapter I Article 1 which reveals that children are individuals whose age is still minor, when compared to the definition of early childhood, namely groups that are in a process of growth and development (Widarmi, 2013: 1.3.). Based on this understanding, it can be concluded that early childhood is generally a minor child and still needs a process of physical, mental, personality, and intellectual growth and development in early childhood education institutions. Quoted from the U.S. National Library of Medicine explains the perpetrator's behavior towards victims of abuse, among others, in the form of touching or inserting certain objects into the victim's genitals as material for the perpetrator's fantasy. In addition, children are also vulnerable to other crimes, namely labor, child prostitution, pornography and child trafficking and certain purposes such as sexual exploitation. Most of these sexual crimes are committed by family or close relatives around 85% and the perpetrators are local. Sexual crimes that occur in Bali can be committed either in the school environment such as teachers, or members of the surrounding community such as neighbors or outsiders.

Barry Buzan interprets this approach, often referred to as "The Widening School/The Widener", security is not only from military threats and state actors, as well as non-military threats that engage and link to the activities of non-state actors. This Child Sex Tourism activity is the focus of research on human security approaches. Sexual abuse and sexual violence faced by children become a severe non-military threat both psychologically and physically from these children. The influence of these activities makes children fearful, closed and difficult to communicate. Deep trauma to children makes children's rights feel threatened. This human safety theory is related to the case of Child Sex Tourism which is analyzed that human safety, especially in children, is a very important component of children's human rights. According to Anna Karin Jafors, one of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) experts, argues that sexual exploitation and child trafficking in Indonesia that occur in Bali, can be seen a lot of young people who even minors are treated for work that they should not do, namely as sexual workers or other jobs of a sexual nature that are violated or illegal.

(Alwafi, 2018) in his research resulted in the role and actions carried out by End Child Prostitution And Trafficking (ECPAT) for the prevention and elimination of all types of crimes such as sexual exploitation of children by conducting advocacy, socialization, and psychological handling with psychiatrists. Then, there is research related to Child Sex Tourism in Bali using the concept of International Organizations and the concept of Child Sex Tourism. The results show how committed the government and law enforcement are to children in Indonesia with the existence of sexual crimes and parents' awareness in providing sexual protection and education from an early age. The concept of human security emphasizes the protection of individuals from threats that threaten survival and prosperity. Because of the existence of Child Sex Tourism due to several factors including, economic, social or bad association. Efforts to reduce child sexual exploitation in the tourism industry can be done by strengthening legal and social protection for children, raising public awareness and developing education and training programs for children and adults. With the occurrence of child sex tourism or Child Sex Tourism can bring social change, namely a shift in tourism value which is very influential for cultural and environmental safety at the place of occurrence. (Faisal, 2015, p. 627).

### **End Child Prostitution And Trafficking**

ECPAT is an international nongovernmental organization that focuses on preventing or combating violence and sexual crimes against children. First, an increase in tourists brings with it an increase in the number of potential child sex offenders becoming situational or preferential offenders. The influx of potential offenders creates a market for children as a destination for sexual exploitation. Child Sex Tourism is an activity that involves foreign tourists vacationing from their country to another country and participating in commercial sex acts with children. According to Ahmad Sofian, as the chief coordinator of ECPAT Indonesia, that sexual crime cases in Indonesia have entered the top 10 as a country that has a destination in deviant tourism activities, namely Child Sex Tourism in the world. While at the Asian level, Indonesia is ranked fourth, after Thailand (detik News, 2015). The perpetrators are not only from other countries

but can even be from these areas. Indonesia as one of the countries according to ECPAT many sexual crimes in the years between 2010 and 2014, there were 137 offenders convicted of child sexual abuse cases in Indonesia, of which 21% were related to Child Sex Tourism.

The study found that there were 37 cases of CSEC handled by ECPAT Indonesia during January to March 2019 in various regions of Indonesia. Child prostitution cases have a presentation of 49%. With such a large number, it can be concluded that along with the times, the level of CSEC crime in Indonesia is still high because information and transactions can be accessed easily through the internet. Many CSEC perpetrators are carried out by pedophiles or adults, around 24 cases or 65% of the total cases found. But girls are still relatively many victims, around 97% of cases found by ECPAT Indonesia. ECPAT as an NGO institution performs functional actions for one system where the system will occur and is dysfunctional or nonfunctional. The ECPAT action gives birth to manifest or real functions and latent or hidden functions. This manifest function is an unexpected consequence or consequence (Raho, 2007: 66). The form of socialization of ECPAT Indonesia is by advocating cases of sexual tourism against children. If the case is large, ECPAT Indonesia will work together with ECPAT networks in various regions to handle it, especially in the intended area because not all ECPAT cases are handled but only certain cases.

This is done to strengthen and self-confidence victims of child sexual tourism. There are victims of trafficking for sexual purposes in Bali that ECPAT and Assistance, Support, Friendship and Mutual Protection (Bandungwangi) have resolved. The activities that Bandungwangi does include:

- 1) Down to Zero socialization program that provides socialization about sex education and avoidance of sexual crimes in children, namely by providing direct assistance to children, or visiting their parents directly.
- 2) Provide education about CSEC or reproductive health and the role of peer groups. The provision of education is carried out so that children do not commit the dangers of sex outside marriage. Creating peer groups is also an effective role to convey education to other friends.
- 3) Establish cooperation with various organizations or institutions such as RPTRA (Child-Friendly Integrated Public Space).
- 4) Cooperation with PATBM (Community Based Integrated Child Training).

The ECPAT structure is to collaborate with PTAK (Center for Transaction Reporting and Analysis), Police, Prosecutors, and PEMDA (Regional Government) in solving cases of sexual exploitation that occur to victims of sexual harassment. ECPAT aims to campaign for planned policies such as conducting pleasure groups in the field, collecting data in collaboration with ECPAT's cooperation network, namely Smart School Online and so on. ECPAT resolves cases with a cooperative approach to KOMINFO in opening and attracting public attention to be careful with cases of sexual tourism against children that occur in Bali with various modes of approach taken by foreign tourists on vacation, namely by using the internet properly and safely for children.

For people who lack knowledge about the internet, they must also know the factors that cause sexual tourism so as not to be ignored because the target that

ECPAT does is not only to parents but victims or children must be more aware of the supervision and guard against the characteristics of foreign tourists who try to commit sexual crimes against children. Children who increasingly know and guard against sexual crimes in the environment are increasingly children who have protection and responsibility when accessing the internet, namely with parental assistance or are advised to use internet for kids services that adjust the age of children to avoid crime modes. Thus, children cannot access content that is not appropriate for their age and avoid outside crimes.

### **Convention on the Rights of the Child**

This Convention or Declaration of the Rights of Children is due to the absence of physical and mental maturity, special protection and supervision of appropriate legal protection. States parties or parties shall have an obligation to protect the rights established in the Convention of the Child to each within their authority without discrimination of any kind. The interests of the child's rights shall take precedence over States parties that undertake to protect the rights of the child necessary for his or her welfare, taking into account the rights and roles of his parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her purpose in appropriate legislative and administrative measures. Protection of children is not only carried out by the government, organizations or other institutions but parents must participate in the protection of their children, families and communities in having the right to protect children from bad activities or signs of sexual crimes. In this case, the government can step directly to provide facilities and accessibility for children in ensuring optimal growth and development in eliminating sexual crimes in Indonesia.

In Indonesia's positive law, protection related to children's rights can be seen in laws and regulations, namely in Presidential Decree Number 36 of 1990 which explains the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Law Number 4 of 1979 concerning Child Welfare and Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. According to the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism, 13,707 children are sexually exploited, among others, spread to various regions, namely, Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, Central Java, East Java and West Java. The increasing cases of Child Sex Tourism in Indonesia need good support from the mass media that can highlight child protection issues and community actions not to remain silent in enforcing child protection laws. Child sexual exploitation is increasing year by year due to the growing demand for the global sex market.

Children are defined in Article 1 paragraph (1) of Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection is: "Children are individuals who have not moved on to adulthood and are still at an early age." The motive of all actors is basically to seek huge profits through this commercial market, namely by employing very young women who will be the main target in taking a lot of profits so as to attract the attention of foreign tourists coming in doing this illicit business. In general, many of the perpetrators hide behind the scenes or use someone's services so that their identity cannot be known. In the investigation of this case, many are less relevant to victims and perpetrators. This is a difficult case if the victim has entered into human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The right way is for action in addressing this issue not only



at the level of designing national preventive actions but in the form of real cooperation involving the community and internet service providers.

### **Child Sex Tourism**

Child Sexual Tourism is a commercial sexual exploitation activity carried out by pedophiles against minors to become a place to satisfy their desires so that individuals travel to the area or place for sexual purposes. Some foreign tourists who carry out these activities or trips come from rich or developing countries and already have connections or sexual tourism destinations in the place or destination they want to go to and the perpetrators who carry out these activities are more dominated who have adequate finances. Child Sex Tourism (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) is a very fast growing and very profitable activity in doing illegal business because it is very closed and not too widely known even the modes carried out by unscrupulous individuals can be seen as good by others but have evil intentions or purposes for them to do, both in creating good conditions for the family after committing their crimes.

Global enslavement of children comes from a variety of factors, such as economic factors, kidnapping, trafficking, even from social media. In the case of sexual crimes, which are mostly trafficked outside, the population of 98% of women is trafficked for CSEC. The environment in ESKA is also very minimal in safety or health so that it will affect the child's condition both physically, psychologically, and emotionally child. Therefore, law enforcement and human rights should be upheld and take serious action against widespread cases of child exploitation, especially in tourism destination areas.

### **Indonesian Government Policy**

In the event of sexual crimes or deviations against children that increase, the government takes actions or efforts to prevent or reduce the number of sexual crimes both in social media and tourism destinations. In this case, in a country or region there is nothing that does not carry out human or child trafficking which is an issue of crime both nationally, internationally, sub-regions and others (Rashad, 2019). The Indonesian government in general cannot handle it alone but contributes to organizations both national, NGO, and international. The concrete contribution poured can have a good impact on reducing sexual crimes in minors. Related contributions can also be made with the Indonesian Child Protection Commission, the National Commission on Violence Against Women, and also the Indonesian Women's Coalition. The Indonesian government can enter into mutual aid agreements, namely in criminal law based on applicable laws and in accordance with crimes that occur. Many activities and anticipations are carried out by the government to prevent sexual crimes that are rife, especially in Bali.

Both from the socialization of sex education that has been carried out, the use of social media cermant and specifically for children, as well as the decisive action of the police and international organizations that have been directly involved in the field. However, this is still considered less effective for the community. Indonesia needs further action on this case, as stated in article 57 paragraph 1 that, "Governments, regions, communities and families must prevent human trafficking." However, the practice of Child Sex Tourism is complicated



because it involves a network of insiders who can manipulate their own data and as a result when they want to be tracked or searched for these individuals are difficult to find or detect. In this case, some people also have to find people who can research places where there are many human trafficking activities or child sex tourism.

## CONCLUSION

The concept of security as a means of developing security issues, therefore from this concept arises a traditional paradigm that is often used in human security studies. Efforts in handling cases from Child Sex Tourism can be assisted by the intervention of both the government and non government organizations in efforts to eradicate Child Sex Tourism that has been widespread in Bali as well as law enforcement and the wider community as well as assistance by psychology for children so as not to cause mental and psychological damage. Other efforts of the government can provide assistance, especially in the digital era or social media to trace the identity of perpetrators and provide security on social media for minors. In law enforcement, it can adjust the laws that have been made by the government in protecting the safety of children and can be guided by the Indonesian Child Protection Community.

Human Security which is one of the focuses on Personal Security which contains that humans can also be threatened both from the right to choose, the right to speak and the protection of personal human security one of the issues is Child Sex Tourism which is a sexual crime against children, human trafficking, prostitution and child sex tourism that causes children to become depressed, trauma and loss of the right to their own protection. This social fact is an obstacle for women to fight for and get freedom from fear and freedom from want which should be the protection of their human security and personal security.

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