

## Sample letter to Member of Congress

Dear

I am writing to ask for your help in protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation of children. It is a horrific form of child abuse, sometimes perpetrated by American sex tourists who believe it is legal and culturally acceptable to sexually exploit children in other countries. These people are called child sex tourists.

ECPAT, an international network of NGO's that are combating child sexual exploitation around the world, has developed a way for responsible companies to can avoid facilitating child sex tourism. *The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* (The Code) was created by ECPAT in conjunction with the travel industry. Companies who sign the Code are volunteering to take six steps to avoid involvement in facilitating child sex tourism:

1. Establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children.
2. Train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations.
3. Introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers, stating the common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children.
4. Provide information to travelers by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, websites, etc.
5. Provide information to local "key persons" at the destinations.
6. Report annually.

More than 600 companies around the world have signed the Code, though only five in the United States. ECPAT-USA is encouraging its members to write letters to the CEOs of the four large US hotel chains that have not signed the Code of Conduct.

It would be enormously helpful if you would write a letter to the CEOs of these companies as well. Your influence and leadership would be critical in helping to convince the private sector they have an important role to play in creating a protective environment for children. Please help us by writing a letter, like many of your colleagues have already done, asking companies to sign the Code of Conduct.

Below is a list of CEOs being asked to sign the Code of Conduct. A sample letter is attached. Please look at the Code of Conduct website ([www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)) or the ECPAT-USA website ([www.ecpat.us.org](http://www.ecpat.us.org)) for more information.