

What is the Global Survivors' Forum?

ECPAT believes that survivors of childhood sexual exploitation need to be at the front and centre in demanding actions to end this crime. It is committed to helping survivors to call upon decision makers to ensure better prevention, protection and justice systems.

Towards this end, ECPAT supports, during the 2016 Year of Action, a process of national, sub-national and regional forums for adult survivors of childhood sexual exploitation. The process will culminate in a **Global Survivors' Forum on 18 November 2016**.

The Global Forum will be co-hosted by ECPAT International and the Council of Europe. It will coincide with the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. The Forum will bring together representatives from national and regional forums in a plenary session held in Strasbourg, France. During the day of the Global Forum, there will be concurrent online discussions, bringing together the voices of survivors from around the world in a dialogue.

Objectives of the Forum

Putting children's and survivors' voices at the heart of ECPAT's work is Change Goal 1 in the Network's Strategic Framework (2015-2018). The key to achieving this goal is to empower survivors as advocates in the fight to end SEC. To this end, the objectives for the Global Forum Process are:

- To sustain global momentum on the need to end the sexual exploitation of children;
- To empower survivors through collaboration, networking, shared learning and amplify their voices by conveying their recommendations to decision makers;
- To obtain agreement on a 'Bill of Rights for Victims of Childhood Sexual Exploitation and Abuse' that will be widely shared with children worldwide;
- To contribute to the positive shift in the public perception of survivors; and

- To encourage governments to initiate actions that involve survivors in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets related to the sexual exploitation of children.

For whom is this Information Paper?

This paper has been developed to support ECPAT members and other civil society organisations that want to be a part of the Global Survivors' Forum process. It is for organisations that wish to facilitate the sharing of experiences amongst survivors from around the world, and empower them by amplifying their voices to decision makers.

Purpose of the Information Paper

This paper aims to provide information to enable your participation in the Global Survivors' Forum. In particular, it will help you to understand the concept of the Forum, how it is being organised and what opportunities you have to engage.

What is the Opportunity?

This Forum is an opportunity for survivors from around the world to shape political and other important agenda by making recommendations to governments and other decision makers. Survivors can be powerful catalysts for change, bringing unique insights and sharing good practices and recommendations.

Planning and Format of the Forum Process

National and sub-national forums of survivors will take place between August and early October. Outcomes from national and sub-



national forums will inform regional forums. These forums will be facilitated by ECPAT Members in each of the regions. Regional Forum participants will agree on regional priorities that will be incorporated into the deliberations of the Global Forum.

The Global Forum will be both in-person and virtual. A small group of survivors, representing the national, sub-national and regional forums will be invited to participate in a plenary session held in Strasbourg, France. This plenary session will be held in English. The use of translation services is currently being explored. During the Plenary Session, there will be a range of presentations, including the Access to Justice and Remedies research findings and recommendations, testimonials, and the screening of pre-recorded materials.

The virtual component of the Global Forum will consist of an online platform, which will be adapted from an existing, well-tested and secure platform currently being used by a survivor focused organisation in the USA. Experienced moderators will monitor the online discussions. Participants in the virtual forum will be able to follow the live plenary session and provide comments and recommendations.

Security and Wellbeing of Survivors

The wellbeing of survivors is of paramount concern. Every measure will be taken to protect participants' anonymity and ensure their safety, including the use of a secure online platform that will be closely moderated.

Only survivors of childhood sexual exploitation who are now above 18 years of age will participate in the Forum. Participants should feel comfortable participating and sharing their experiences during the Forum. Guidelines will be shared to help identify those who are both willing and most able to contribute during the event.

Outputs

Survivors will determine the deliverables and how to follow-up. An Outcome Document containing key recommendations of the Forum will be prepared. These recommendations will take into account the experiences of survivors and their unique perspectives, as well as the challenges they faced and continue to face. The Outcome Document will be presented to a range of decisions makers, including those of governments, international entities, regional mechanisms, the private sector, and civil society. It will also be widely shared with all members of the ECPAT Network, partners and the media.

The 'Bill of Rights' document¹ developed with and for child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, will be discussed during national, sub-national and regional Forums, with the aim of obtaining an endorsement from the participants of the Global Forum.

How can you engage?

If you are an organisation working with survivors of child sexual exploitation, then there are a number of ways to involve them in the Forum process. We also encourage professionals working with survivors to share their experiences, as these may also be integrated into the Forum or used to shape the recommendations. If you do not work directly with survivors, but work with organisations that do, then we encourage you to share this opportunity with them.

Options for engagement include:

1. Hold a consultation with survivors

ECPAT Network Members, partners and survivors will be an integral part of the Survivors Forum process and will drive the conversation before, during and after the Global Forum. Members and partners are invited to hold national (or sub-national) forums with adult survivors of SEC between August and October. Recommendations of national consultations will inform regional forums.

Holding consultations with partners and other groups, and/or, with the support of governments, will help to engage a diverse group of survivors, strengthen advocacy and widen the impact of the Forum.

2. Submit videos/drawings/poems from children

In order to enable the voices of children to be heard throughout the consultation process and during the Forum, ECPAT welcomes different ways for children's stories and opinions to be heard by adult survivors, decision makers and the public.

If members or partners have videos or other creative ways where children share their aspirations for the future, or, calls for action, then these may be shown during the Global Forum in Strasbourg. The materials will also be considered for inclusion on the survivors' voices page of ECPAT International's website. The goal is to create an impactful, effective and accessible section of the website that highlights survivors' experiences of child sexual exploitation through their voices.

Guidelines on how to engage in the above activities will be shared in the coming weeks.

1. The Bill of Rights was mentioned as a key initiative in this year's Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children to the Human Rights Council.

Contact

If you are interested in engaging in the Forum please email Ommera Ahmed, Child and Youth Participation Officer, ECPAT International at ommeraa@ecpat.net by 5 August 2016.