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protecting children everywhere

Dear

ECPAT UK has been funded by the Children's Commissioners Office for Wales to consider what evidence there is for child trafficking in Wales. ECPAT UK has a national and international reputation for its research and lobbying on this issue<sup>1</sup>.

Child trafficking is a relatively recent phenomenon in the UK. It involves children being brought into and moved around the UK to be exploited. This exploitation may take the form of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, benefit fraud, illegal adoption and practices similar to slavery<sup>2</sup>. It can affect children from European Union countries, children who claim asylum in the UK and also UK nationals. Evidence shows that traffickers will seek to target areas where they think their activities will not be detected. Therefore we have seen a shift away from bringing children in through Heathrow and Gatwick to entry through regional sea and airports<sup>3</sup>.

Child trafficking is not easily identified and sometimes suspicions are all that we have to go on. This piece of research acknowledges that evidence for child trafficking is often piecemeal and that practitioners may not be sure whether or not the child they are working with may have been trafficked. To aid thinking about possible cases, I include a list of 5 common scenarios that may indicate that a child has been trafficked. For the purposes of the research, a child is anyone under 18 years of age.

The data gathering for the research is taking place by interview or by questionnaire. I have enclosed a questionnaire which I would be grateful if you could complete in relation to any child that you have had suspicions about. If you would like to be interviewed please contact me direct and this can be arranged.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.ecpat.org.uk](http://www.ecpat.org.uk) resources page for a list of our publications

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Palermo Protocol 2000

<sup>3</sup> CEOP (2007) A Scoping Report Into Child Trafficking in the UK

Any information you give will be treated in confidence and all data will be made anonymous. We do not require your details unless you choose to give them.

I do hope that you can find the time to complete a questionnaire (one per child) and I would like to thank you in advance for your input. All questions need to be returned to me by the end of September 2008.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Emma Kelly  
Lead Researcher