

**International Consortium of Lawyers Releases Third Legal Practice Guide on
Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children**

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM:

A Guide to Extraterritorial Jurisdiction to Hold Perpetrators Accountable in Switzerland

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 18 — The Human Trafficking Legal Center and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (Orrick) today announced the release of *CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM: A Guide to Extraterritorial Jurisdiction to Hold Perpetrators Accountable in Switzerland*, the third publication in a series of legal practice guides for prosecutors, human trafficking survivors, and advocates to address the worldwide problem of perpetrators traveling abroad to sexually abuse children.

This guide was authored by Georgina Vaz Cabral, an advisor to the Human Trafficking Legal Center, and Patrick Hubert, partner, and Rene Kathawala, pro bono counsel, at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Maggie Lee of the Human Trafficking Legal Center and Bénédicte De Moerloose, counsel at the Swiss law firm Peter & Moreau, edited the guide and provided expert review.

In October 2021, the Human Trafficking Legal Center and Orrick released the first guide, *AUSTRALIA: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction for Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel And Tourism*, co-authored with Western Sydney University Justice Clinic. In January 2023, the Center and Orrick released the second guide, *CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM: A Guide to Extraterritorial Jurisdiction to Hold Perpetrators Accountable in France*, co-authored by Georgina Vaz Cabral.

The Human Trafficking Legal Center and Orrick launched the guide series after receiving requests from victim advocates in the field. These activists had encountered multiple cases of child sexual exploitation by expatriates in their countries. But they found little guidance on how to hold these foreign abusers to justice. Orrick and the Center joined forces to respond to these requests. Each of the three guides focuses on a specific country's relevant statutes, case law, and notable prosecutions. The guides are intended for use by both legal and non-legal professionals. The guide includes practical instructions on reporting child sexual abuse committed by Swiss citizens and residents.

The authors of the guide note that Swiss law provides for prosecution of Swiss citizens. Several sexual offenses committed abroad can be prosecuted in Switzerland, provided that the offender is found in Switzerland and does not need to be extradited. Special units at the Federal Swiss Office of Police (Fedpol) have been set up to investigate child sexual abuse in travel and tourism, as well as cases of trafficking in human beings. The authors point out that while Switzerland has established universal jurisdiction for these crimes, the number of prosecutions remains very low. Accountability for these crimes is rare.

Swiss courts have adjudicated cases involving Swiss offenders who abused children in the Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Portugal, France, Haiti, Benin, Thailand, and the United States. Swiss

citizens have also faced criminal prosecution in the countries where they abused children, including Belgium, Cambodia, India, Madagascar, and Morocco.

Martina Vandenberg, president of the Human Trafficking Legal Center, said, “We hope that this guide on holding Swiss perpetrators accountable for child sex abuse committed abroad will provide a roadmap for activists on the ground. These victim advocates confront horrendous abuse of children by foreign perpetrators all too often. Impunity for those who commit these atrocious crimes against children must end.”

Orrick’s pro bono counsel Rene Kathawala said, “Our collaboration with the Human Trafficking Legal Center is designed to maximize impact for those most vulnerable and this guide is a great example of how our pro bono resources can be used to address the most heinous crimes imaginable. We hope the guide will allow for greater accountability.”

About The Human Trafficking Legal Center

[The Human Trafficking Legal Center \(HT Legal\)](#) is a bridge to justice, leveraging the power of pro bono legal services to fight forced labor and sex trafficking around the globe. The Center conducts research, policy work, legislative analysis, litigation, and advocacy. In addition, the Center connects trafficking survivors with pro bono attorneys to bring traffickers to justice, so that survivors can rebuild their lives.

About Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

[Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP](#) is a global law firm with 25 offices around the world. Orrick has a commitment to pro bono services and has devoted substantial resources to efforts to combat human trafficking. The firm has been recognized for having one of the best pro bono law programs in the United States and internationally.

Contact Information:

Martina E. Vandenberg
The Human Trafficking Legal Center
Tel: 202-716-8485 (U.S.)
mvandenberg@htlegalcenter.org

Rene Kathawala
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Tel: 212-506-5100 (U.S.)
rkathawal@orrick.com

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