

7 better ways to Protect Children around the World

Millions of children around the world are pushed onto the margins of their societies. These children have little access to education and are forced to work, are separated from their families and as such are at risk of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

During your travels, you might be confronted with situations of children in distress or at risk of being abused or harmed. The following 7 Tips provide you with information, suggested actions and practical advice on what to do so that you too can be a ChildSafe Traveler and protect children wherever you travel.

Tip 02

THINK! Before buying or giving to begging children.

When you travel, you might encounter children begging for food, money or selling goods on the streets, or popular tourist areas.

By buying from these children or giving them money, you help maintain this unsafe daily working life, preventing them from attending school or training, trapping them in a cycle of poverty. You can effectively help by supporting organizations that work directly with these children and that also support their family members to find employment.

Use social training businesses' services and buy products made by parents so they can earn an income to provide better care for their children. For a list by country, please visit www.thinkchildsafesafe.org Tip #2

Tip 04

THINK! Children are not tourist attractions

When you travel, you might be offered to visit children shelters (such as orphanages), centers (such as schools) or places where they live and work (such as slums or dumpsites).

By participating in such "visits" you are putting children at more risk: you support systems that separate children from families, many institutions force children to perform to solicit money, you create dependency on your hand-outs, you disrupt education, you increase their sense of inferiority and you might be breaking the law.

Instead, you can help by supporting organizations that provide education and training to reduce poverty and keep families together. Use services and buy products from training social businesses that allow parents to earn an income to provide better care for their children. For a list by country, and other ways to help visit www.thinkchildsafesafe.org Tip #4

Tip 06

THINK! When faced with a situation of potential sexual exploitation of children

When you travel, you might be offered to have sex with children, or you might witness a situation where an adult is propositioning a child or any other situation where a child is at risk of sexual exploitation. This can happen in your hotel / guesthouse, in places of entertainment or directly on the streets.

If you witness such a situation, avoid getting involved and report it immediately to local authorities, online to Interpol or call local hotlines. For a list by country visit; www.thinkchildsafesafe.org Tip #7

Tip 01

Support ChildSafe Network Members

When you travel you will see various businesses and individuals displaying the ChildSafe logo.

ChildSafe trains strategically selected community members such as tuk-tuk and moto-dup drivers, hotels and tour group leaders on how to identify and protect children from abusive situations. They are equipped to respond immediately to a child in danger. By supporting the services of these ChildSafe members you support a network that protects children from all forms of abuse. Please always look for the ChildSafe logo during your travels around Asia, and use their services.

Find out about ChildSafe Members where you travel: www.childsafe-international.org Tip #1

Tip 03

THINK! How to protect children from exploitative labor.

When you travel, you might witness children who are forced to work.

Children may be exploited and forced to work, which keeps them from attending school and is damaging to their development. You might witness children working in restaurants, guesthouses / hotels, as security staff, on building construction sites, markets etc.

If you suspect that a child is being forced to work, contact local authorities, report online to Interpol or call local hotlines. For a list by country visit; www.thinkchildsafesafe.org Tip #7

Tip 05

THINK! Before taking a child back to your hotel room for any reason.

When you travel, you might encounter children who you want to help directly.

Taking a child to your hotel room for food, to bathe themselves, or to rest is dangerous for you and the child. It puts you at risk of being accused of abusing a child and getting in serious trouble with the law. Also, the child may then feel it is okay to go into rooms with adults, and could be at risk of being abused or raped the next time.

If you see a child on the street you feel needs help, contact local organizations in the area, or report to local authorities or call local hotlines. For a list by country visit; www.thinkchildsafesafe.org Tip #7

Tip 07

THINK! Keep your eyes wide open

When you travel, you might encounter various situations where children are at risk of harm. In addition to the risks already mentioned, other forms of abuse include physical or emotional abuse, sickness, drug use, accidents or being lost.

Reports can be made to International Police www.interpol.org or contact ChildSafe; childsafefriends@international.org