

## **Resolution on prostitution tourism**

*Whereas* all sexual exploitation, in particular of children, constitutes a violation of fundamental human rights and human dignity;

*Whereas* the sexual exploitation of children and child prostitution are in part caused by poverty, growing inequities and marginalisation in economically developed urban societies, by the destruction of traditional family, social and community structures, as well as by the influence of organised crime;

*Whereas* child prostitution is growing, notably in regions visited by tourists (more than one million children are affected);

*Noting* with concern that prostitution tourism is one of the causes of the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;

*Whereas* resolutions have been adopted by the International Hotel Association, the Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations and the World Tourism Organisation; while a debate is going on within the European Community regarding tourism and prostitution.

*Therefore*, further to a resolution on prostitution tourism adopted by the joint IUF - ITF - FIET Asia-Pacific Tourism Seminar held in Penang, Malaysia, in June 1995;

**the European Tourism Liaison Committee, representing workers employed in the different tourism sectors, at its meeting held in Brussels on 16 October 1996, hereby**

*declares* that any lasting solution to the problem of prostitution, in particular child prostitution, requires that progressive social and economic reforms provide the objective conditions for children to cease being treated as commodities;

*declares* that the promotion of dignity, human and sexual rights of women is also crucial to a lasting solution;

*affirms* that immediate measures are nonetheless indispensable to fight prostitution tourism and child prostitution;

*underscores* the key responsibility of governments in this struggle, both in host countries and in the home countries of tourists;

*urges* governments to intensify their efforts aimed at enforcing human rights, in particular for children, by reinforcing appropriate legislation that makes it a crime for individuals or businesses to promote or engage in child prostitution, and by providing support and social integration structures for the children concerned;

*instigates* governments to make every endeavour to sensitise public opinion, by executing information campaigns and action programmes to fight against child prostitution, favourably by creating transborder networks;

*urges* the institutions of the European Union to take all possible measures at Community level aimed at fighting against prostitution tourism and child prostitution in particular;

*urges* the EU Member States to adopt measures to restrict and criminalise prostitution tourism carried out or promoted by citizens or companies from their state, including where such activities take place abroad;

*states* its belief that workers in the tourism sector can and must play a key role in the fight against child prostitution;

*calls* upon trade union organisations representing workers in tourism services, such as travel agencies, tour operators, hotels, bars, tourist guides, etc., to negotiate with employers in these sectors measures aimed at preventing prostitution tourism from occurring, by

- issuing a joint statement wherein employers endeavour not to allow child prostitution be promoted by their structures or take place in their facilities, and hence agree to take all the necessary steps to inform customers to that effect, and wherein trade unions call upon employees to oppose all kinds of child prostitution and of sexual exploitation;
- obtaining a commitment on the part of employers to the effect that any employee, against whom a complaint is made by a customer further to the employee's refusal to respond to a request in connection with child prostitution, shall have the backing of management and will not be penalised for such refusal;

*recommends* to the participating organisations and their concerned affiliates to cooperate, each at their own level, with the campaign against prostitution tourism, e.g. by exerting pressure on governments and by including the issue of child prostitution in discussions of tourism development at national or international level;

*asks* the participating organisations to make available to affiliates model statements enabling them to implement this recommendation;

*recommends* to the participating organisations to take any initiative aimed at informing and increasing awareness among affiliated organisations and society at large about issues connected to prostitution tourism, child prostitution and the development of AIDS.

The European Tourism Liaison Committee is a cooperation of:

<b>ECF- IUF</b>	European Committee of Food, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering and Allied Workers' Unions within the IUF
<b>FST</b>	Fédération Syndicale des Transports dans l'Union Européenne
<b>Euro-FIET</b>	European Regional Organisation of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees
<b>IUF</b>	International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations
<b>ITF</b>	International Transport Workers' Federation
<b>FIET</b>	International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees