

# FAIR VOLUNTEERING ABROAD

## Child protection on board?



## Travelling while helping - doing good while vacationing?

- » The demand for volunteering while being abroad is increasing.
- » Especially popular are projects with children (orphanages, schools, child care).
- » A valuable experience for travellers and the local population?





# Volunteering- (not) a problem?

- » Orphanages are often not operated in the favour of children but only exist to generate income from visiting volunteers and tourists while children get exploited regularly!
- » 85% of all “orphans” in Cambodia still have one living parent (Unicef 2011).
- » The length of the work in a project varies from a few hours up to only a few weeks. Children have to constantly get used to new care takers just to say goodbye a few hours or days later.
- » Most of the times it is possible to work with children without any kind of educational training.
- » A background check is usually not required for these volunteers, hence the risk of children getting sexually exploited increases.





# What can I do?

Anyone can contribute towards the protection of children and ensuring the rights of a child. :

- » Visit and inform yourself on platforms such as DeeperTravel, WeltWegWeiser and Responsible Volunteering at their respective website: [www.deepertravel.at](http://www.deepertravel.at), [www.weltwegweiser.at](http://www.weltwegweiser.at) and [www.responsible-volunteering.com](http://www.responsible-volunteering.com).
- » Call attention to child protection amongst your family and friends.
- » Report suspected cases:



At the website [www.nicht-wegsehen.at](http://www.nicht-wegsehen.at) you can easily submit reports about child abuse worldwide, no matter where you are, independent from knowing the local language. Here you can find information and can pass on your observations to the German Federal Criminal Office or the child protection organisation ECPAT.



### Here is how to find the right project:

- » Be critical with the provider and honest with yourself.
- » Question yourself if your education and background are sufficient for working with children: Would you want or be allowed to do this job in your home country?
- » Look for offers that provide thorough support and preparation before, during and after your stay.
- » Ask the volunteer provider for child protection guidelines enforced within the company or the organisation.



**You are offering volunteering abroad - what can you do?**

For NGOs, associations, initiatives and travel agencies:





# Send volunteers abroad - but how?

- » Avoid offering projects in orphanages.
- » Check all projects that have any contact with children and be critical of whether the work would be better accommodated with local workers.
- » Develop and implement guidelines for child protection for your organisation and your partner organisations on site. ECPAT can support you!
- » Evaluate projects with children on a regular basis and critically.
- » Require police records for volunteer projects with children, and also when accommodating volunteers in local host families, which have children.
- » Only allow volunteers whom possess the appropriate educational training and are willing to work for a longer period of time in that project to work with children.
- » Prepare your volunteers well before they start working, support them during their stay and invite them for a debriefing afterwards. DeeperTravel, ECPAT and WeltWegWeiser can help!

## responsible volunteering

responsible-volunteering.com is a platform to inform, support and encourage all current, future and former volunteers and those that engage in the field. It gathers relevant information and data independent from any organisations or institutions.

responsible-volunteering.com follows market trends and publishes articles that approach current topics challenging the sustainable development of this industry.

## DeeperTravel

TIFFER  
LÄNGER  
NACHHALTIGER

DeeperTravel - Association for Promotion of Global Learning and Intercultural Communication runs the leading German language online information platform for volunteer travel: [deepertravel.at](http://deepertravel.at). Providing useful information and practical tips, interviews with experts and field reports from volunteers, introducing projects and organizations for volunteering and the Ebook 'FAIRreisen statt verreisen - nachhaltig unterwegs als Volunteer'.



ECPAT Austria, [www.ecpat.at](http://www.ecpat.at), is the specialist organisation in Austria to fight against sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT Austria is part of the network ECPAT International, which consists of 98 partner organisations in 88 countries. In cooperation with governmental and non-governmental partners as well as the private sector, the ECPAT Network works on protecting children from sexual exploitation and ensuring their rights.

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