



## Beyond Borders Au-delà des frontières

ECPAT CANADA

CANADA'S GLOBAL VOICE AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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## VIDEO GAMES WITH ONLINE ACCESS POSE NEW RISKS TO YOUNG PLAYERS

by Caitlin Sparks

In 2009, a man named Anthony O'Shea was arrested and charged with sexually soliciting an 11-year-old girl online. His crime was not unique - Internet solicitation has been a facet of cyber crime since the introduction of online communication. What separates O'Shea's crime from those of his predecessors is the medium he used - he befriended, solicited, and obtained nude images of his victim solely by use of a PlayStation 3 console.

With the advent of new online technologies, more attention must be paid to monitoring these technologies for the risks they may pose to children. As children become increasingly more adept at using these technologies, the knowledge gap between adults and youth continues to grow, limiting available protections.

Parents may be largely unaware of how children are able to access the Internet, particularly by way of new technologies that they are unfamiliar with. Media attention and parental concern have tended to focus on the family computer - parents are learning to be attentive to the risk posed by chat rooms, email, and social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace. However, adults must also be aware of the safe use of alternative technologies that allow children to access the Internet.

Video games are a prime example of technologies that increasingly use online social communities. Users may interact via voice chat, or simply through instant-message or email-style communication both in-game and outside of it. In the example above, Anthony O'Shea was able to befriend his young victim through such a platform, and build her trust. The victim's parents were unaware of the full capabilities of the PlayStation 3, and so did not realize the risks posed. As this story reveals, not only was an offender able to access his victim in an unsupervised arena - the young girl was also able to capture and send sexually explicit images of herself to her abuser, unbeknownst to anyone.

Parents need to be aware of this type of accessibility and should be prepared to play games and use these technologies alongside their children in order to gain a full understanding of their capabilities.

*Caitlin Sparks has a master's degree in criminology. Her thesis focused on the role of video game technologies and online sexual offending. She is one of the administrators of the Beyond Borders Facebook page.*

### HELP FOR PARENTS

Many video game technology developers provide information on their websites about how parents can protect young users from unwanted communication online.

**What They Play -  
the family guide to video games**  
<http://www.whattheyplay.com>

**Microsoft's Xbox**  
<http://support.xbox.com/en-us/pages/xbox-live/how-to/parental-control.aspx>

**PlayStation 3**  
<http://us.playstation.com/support/parents/index.htm>

**Nintendo Wii**  
[http://www.nintendo.com/consumer/systems/wii/en\\_na/settingsParentalControls.jsp](http://www.nintendo.com/consumer/systems/wii/en_na/settingsParentalControls.jsp)

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## HOW TO SPOT AND STOP CHILD SEX TOURISM WHILE TRAVELLING

by Alex Bill

Child sex tourism (CST), the repulsive fallout of greater and easier global tourism, has seen its victims grow to over two million. The primary locations of CST have expanded from classic destinations such as Thailand, Brazil, and Mexico, to include India, South Africa, and other areas in Central America and Southeast Asia.

Although CST has grown alarmingly, there is much that legitimate tourists can do to help combat this terrible crime. When tourists are travelling to known CST destinations it helps to be aware of the locations and situations that facilitate the sexual abuse of minors and when it may be occurring.

CST often occurs in brothels, clubs, or rented accommodations such as hotels and apartments, or even on the beaches and streets of tourism destinations. Sex tourists are often facilitated by taxi drivers, waiters, vendors, and tour guide operators, or they may approach children directly.

While travelling, tourists should be wary of:

- Adults seen regularly talking with children or alone with a child that does not appear to be family.
- Anyone seen giving money or gifts to a child or his or her family, or those who are inquiring about the situation of particular children.
- Hotel staff that do not check the age or identification of children that enter the hotel with a guest.
- Tour guide operators making subtle or explicit offers to take tourists to areas where they will have easy access to children.

In such cases one should immediately make a report to the local authorities. Tourists can also notify a local NGO working with children, an embassy if the offender is a foreigner or a reporting hotline or email address such as [protect@ecpat.net](mailto:protect@ecpat.net) or [cybertip.ca](http://cybertip.ca). While it may not be easy, travellers should try and obtain as much information as they can, such as the names or descriptions of the offenders and children, locations where the crime occurred, and where the offender is staying.

**Tourism companies and organizations also have a responsibility to help prevent and address CST. Transat A.T. Inc, is one company that has stepped up to combat this crime. Transat has been training their front-line staff on the issue of CST and how to identify it, will be raising the awareness of customers and destination partners, and has developed internal policies addressing how to manage situations where children in destinations that Transat services may be at risk.**

**Canadian airline, WestJet, has also supported Beyond Borders activities, including as a sponsor for its annual Media Awards and promotion in its in flight magazine, UP.**

Alex Bill is in his second year studying law at the University of New Brunswick. Alex is an intern assisting Beyond Borders with corporate social responsibility initiatives this summer in partnership with Canadian Lawyers Abroad.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## closing statement to B.C. Supreme Court on polygamy

Beyond Borders made its closing submission March 31 on the question of whether the law pertaining to polygamy (sec. 293) complies with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A decision on the case is pending.

Visit <http://bit.ly/jKqqwH> to see submission.

## new celebrities join Man-to-Man campaign

Country music star, **Paul Brandt** and Blue Bloods actor, **Len Cariou** have joined the Man-to-Man campaign. Between the French-language campaign, Homme À Homme, and the English, Man-to-Man, we now have 23 celebrities on board who are helping us encourage other men to take action on the issue of child sexual exploitation. See our new additions at [endthedemand.ca](http://endthedemand.ca).

Visit Homme À Homme at [taparolecompte.ca](http://taparolecompte.ca).



Paul Brandt



Len Cariou

## presentation on taking action against CSE

Au-delà des frontières volunteer, Nalini Vaddapalli with Au-delà des frontières president, Rosalind Prober, gave a presentation in Quebec in June at the *Colloque international sur l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants et les conduites excessives*. The presentation focused on Au-delà des frontières activities including the Code of Conduct, The Homme À Homme campaign, and the international ECPAT/The Body Shop petition to stop child sex trafficking.



Nalini Vaddapalli and Rosalind Prober displaying The Body Shop's Soft Hands, Kind Heart hand cream.

## Rosalind Prober receives honours



Rosalind Prober was honoured with an award by **Doctors Manitoba** on May 4 for her contribution toward improving and promoting the health and safety of Manitobans. Beyond Borders volunteers and board members attended the awards ceremony.



On June 27, Rosalind was invested with the **Order of Canada**. She was appointed in May 2010 for contributions as a volunteer and social advocate working to advance the rights of children and stop global child sexual exploitation. She is pictured here with fellow O.C. member, Michael J. Fox and her daughter Jaime Prober.

## Beyond Borders featured in Transat's in-flight magazine

Travellers who read Transat's *Atmosphere* magazine in May and June found a feature article about child sex tourism and the partnership between Beyond Borders and the integrated tourism company to combat it.

Visit <http://bit.ly/mTEcPo> to see the article.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Americas ECPAT Network Meeting

Quebec volunteer, Gaby Gamara attended *The Americas ECPAT Network Meeting* in Lima, Peru in May to discuss the Man-to-Man campaign, the Media Awards as well as Beyond Borders' travel and tourism initiatives.



*Gaby with other participants of Americas ECPAT Network Meeting in Lima, Peru.*



*Ally hosts kids workshop at Kincardine School District's symposium.*

## youth spreading the word

Man-to-Man campaign video participant, Ally, talked about her story and promoted the campaign at the Kincardine School District's symposium, *Today's Kids, Tomorrow's Village* in Ontario.

Video participant, Jordan Masciangelo, also presented his story and promoted the campaign at the 10th Conference on Male Sexual Victimization in Kingston, Ontario in March.



*celebrate those working  
to save our children  
from sexual exploitation*

**BEYOND  
BORDERS  
MEDIA  
AWARDS**

Monday, November 21, 2011  
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
The Fort Garry Hotel  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

## please consider supporting Beyond Borders

We could not do our work without donor support. You can donate online at [beyondborders.org](http://beyondborders.org) or by mail using the envelope enclosed.