



Tourism and Human Rights Justice and Ethical Dilemmas

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Background: Me and my work

- Tour Operator in Indonesia
- PhD Anthropology of Tourism: Flores, Indonesia
- Senior Lecturer in International Tourism Development @ UWE
- Researcher
 - Indonesia - Mexico
 - India - Costa Rica
 - Rwanda - Tanzania
- Research into the impacts of tourism. Protecting communities from negative impacts
- Activist – Tourism Concern (Human rights and tourism) Chair
- Director www.equalityintourism.org



Introduction



Tourism is the No. 1 export earner for 60 countries in the world and is key to the development strategy in over 150 countries.

- Our Holidays –their development???
- What's the link with Human Rights???
- What are Human Rights?
- Who decides what is a “Human Right”?

Human Rights

- Human Rights = basic standards without which people can not live with dignity.
- They include civil, political, economic and social rights which are inter-dependant, indivisible and universal.
- They began with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 but have been added to.



Tourism and Labour Rights

- Workers rights *are* human rights
- The line between servility and slavery is often crossed
- Tourism work exaggerates and reinforces previous relations of inequality and emotional subordination



Porters - Nepal - Frostbitten Feet of a Porter - Credit: Jim Duff

Tourism and Labour Rights

- "We are contracted as beasts of burden and treated as if we weren't human". "We dont have sleeping bags or waterproofs and we have to sleep outside" (Machu Picchu Porter)
- Nepalese porters suffer 4 x as many accidents and illnesses than trekkers.



London housekeepers



68% of London hospitality workers are paid less than the London living wage

70% Of London's hospitality workers are migrants

A Unite survey found

90% have constant pain caused by their job

88% have neck pain

84% have back pain

64% have shoulder pain

70% take painkillers on a daily basis

82% know of co-workers who suffer the same pain

Property Rights

- Housing- basic human need and connected to other rights
- Tourism displaces by eviction or forces migration
- Ecotourism often means forcible eviction for indigenous people.
- 50% of indigenous people in Kenya have experienced some form of land dispossession in the name of ecotourism
- Human rights are put second to wildlife conservation.
- How many Twa have been displaced by Gorilla tourism?
- How much of the income from Gorilla tourism goes to the Twa communities who once lived in the forests, now playground for rich tourists and major source of income for Rwanda?



Access to Water and Human Rights

- Sufficient (50 and 100 litres per person per day).
- Safe (free from microorganisms or other hazards).
- Physically accessible (within 1000m and collection time \leq 30 minutes).
- Affordable (water costs \leq 3% of household income).
- Prerequisite for other rights: food, health, to education, self determination and life.

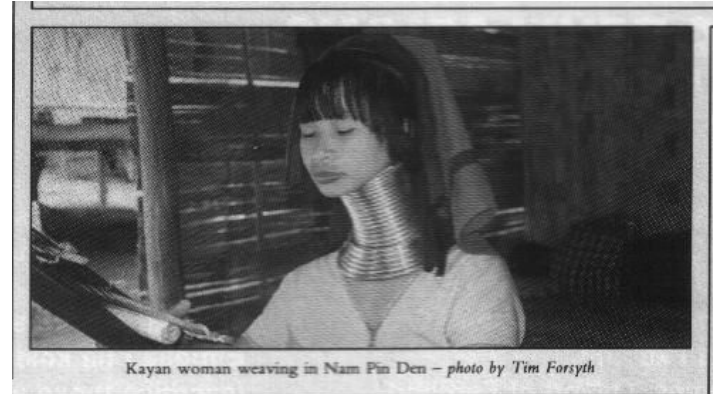


Tourism water and Gender in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia

- Water scarcity is not new it existed before tourism started to develop.
- Less than 20% of the population have piped water supply
- Tourism is competing for water with local residents, pushing up prices beyond affordability and forcing some women into exploitative labour, is abusing human rights.
- **Women** have to queue, carry , collect, spare, save and worry about water.
- Hotels, guest houses, foreigners and the most affluent local people depend on VERY EXPENSIVE private tanker supplies and drink bottled Aqua.
- “Aqua (bottled water) is so cheap I’d let my guests shower in it” (a German guest house owner).
- “If a women comes to give birth we ask to make sure their husband brings two jerry cans – we don’t have running water at the clinic” (a midwife who works at Labuan’s only medical facility)



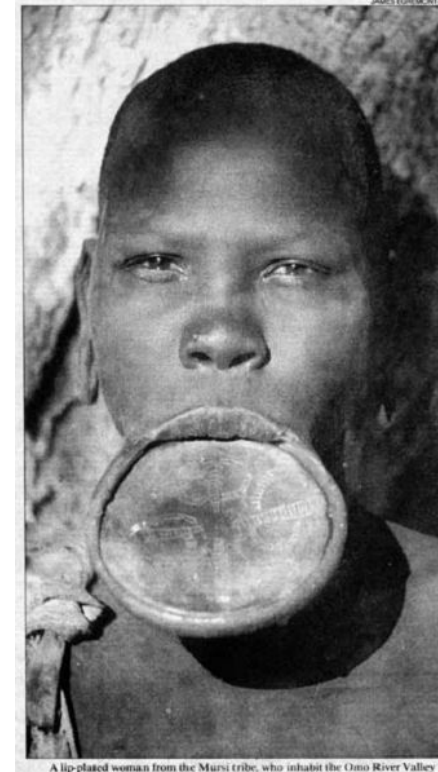
Photography and Privacy Rights



Kayan woman weaving in Nam Pin Den - photo by Tim Forsyth



- Freedom to express identity
- Suffer exposure and exploitation
- Stateless, trafficked, and imprisoned as tourist curiosities.
- Encounters based on dignity and respect are possible!



A lip-plated woman from the Mursi tribe, who inhabit the Omo River Valley

Welcome to Chiang Mai Zoo. We are here now!

チュンマイ動物園へようこそ。私たちは、ここです。

欢迎你来清迈动物园
现在我住在这里



www.pandathailand.org

“创创”
Chuang Ch

Cruising and modern day slavery



- Discrimination according to gender, nationality and skin colour.
- Workers do not receive holiday nor sick pay and are prevented from leaving the ship
- Pregnancy and maternity rights are absent, sexual assaults are common.
- [Funny video from Hasan Mishaj \(not U rated\)](#)

Conclusions

- Human Rights are universal – for all people everywhere
- Tourism industry as presently practised fails to respect the human rights of many people in destination communities.
- This lecture has taken a limited look at labour rights, privacy rights, water and property rights
- There are many others we could have considered including:
 - Gender rights are human rights
 - The right to be a child (and the consequences of the orphanage tourism)
 - The rights of indigenous people
 - The right to health (pollution on cruise ships/ your extra towel)
 - The right to education (and why giving to begging children can deny this).