

# Gap year students cause more harm than good as top university calls for orphanage visits to stop



*The Telegraph Online*, May 21, 2016

Byline: Lydia Willgress

Gap year students can cause more harm than good, it has been claimed after a top British university called for orphanage visits to stop being promoted.

David Coles, who works as the charity coordinator at the London School of Economics (LSE), said visits by "unqualified and ill-suited" students, who also travel during summer holidays and after university, can lead to child trafficking and sexual exploitation.

He also claimed families in countries popular with travellers are being fooled into giving up their children because they are told they will do better in orphanages.

.html-embed.component .quote.component{margin-left:0}.html-embed.component .quote.component .component-content{margin-right:16px}.quote\_\_source, .quote\_\_author {white-space: normal;}@media only screen and (min-width:730px){.html-embed.component .quote.component{margin-left:-60.83px}.html-embed.component .quote.component .quote\_\_content:before{margin-left:-12px;padding-right:1px}}@media only screen and (min-width:1008px){.html-embed.component .quote.component{margin-left:-82.33px}}We have to be careful of what people are doing as many people are sent to work with vulnerable children overseasDavid Coles.html-embed.component .quote.component{margin-left:0}.html-embed.component .quote.component .component-content{margin-right:16px}.quote\_\_source, .quote\_\_author {white-space: normal;}@media only screen and (min-width:730px){.html-embed.component .quote.component{margin-left:-60.83px}.html-embed.component .quote.component .quote\_\_content:before{margin-left:-12px;padding-right:1px}}@media only screen and (min-width:1008px){.html-embed.component .quote.component{margin-left:-82.33px}}People who run orphanages are going out to very poor areas and convincing families to put their children into the residential care system on the promise on Westerners and foreigners coming to teach themDavid ColesCambodia

READ MORE ABOUT:

University education

Students

Show more

CAPTION(S):

His comments came two days after he wrote a blog on the university's official careers website, where he stated that LSE would no longer advertise or promote orphanage volunteering.

Credit: A[c] parkerphotography / Alamy Stock Photo

A file photo of student volunteers helping a young girl from an orphanage in Thailand.

By Lydia Willgress

**Full Text:** COPYRIGHT 2016 Telegraph Group Ltd.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

**Source Citation**

"Gap year students cause more harm than good as top university calls for orphanage visits to stop." *Telegraph Online*, 21 May 2016. *Student Resources in Context*, [link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A452891673/SUIC?u=tall78416&xid=335c92a3](http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A452891673/SUIC?u=tall78416&xid=335c92a3). Accessed 21 Sept. 2017.

**Gale Document Number:** GALE|A452891673