

## Foreword

.....

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to write a foreword for inclusion in this book, which forms part of the 'Child-Safe Travel-Safe' series. In my role as a 'Goodwill Ambassador' for 'Child-Safe', and through my work with 'Childhelp USA', I fully endorse the ethos of this work in drawing our attention as parents and Guardians as to how we can best help protect our children whilst travelling abroad.

One of the benefits of my film and television career has been the chance to travel to different continents and many countries and to experience the varied cultures and lifestyles. Children and young people who are fortunate enough to have the chance to travel abroad should perceive this as an exciting opportunity to broaden and enrich their lives. I have been able to take my children with me whilst visiting other countries and have seen first hand how valuable this has been to them.

As a mother I know of the great joy that children can bring into our lives, but also the anxiety that, as a parent, we can all feel in wanting to protect our children from any harm. Through the research undertaken by Chris Gould and Kaye Jones it is clear that the vast majority of exchanges take place successfully and that the opportunity exists for an educational, cultural or language experience and fun time. Unfortunately, as their work also highlights, this is not always the case. They have discovered children and young people who have been mistreated, sometimes physically, emotionally or sexually abused. Having identified this problem and through their experience within Child Protection, Chris and Kaye have now been able to produce the 'Child-Safe Travel-Safe' series. By taking the sensible precautions advised, and following the guidance laid out in this book, will ensure that your child has the best possible chance of having a great experience whilst, at the same time, being safe and well cared for during their trip abroad.

Finally, I would like to wish the children and young people travelling abroad a safe and happy time. It will be a memory, I am sure in the future, they will be able to look back on with fondness and a period during which they will have forged lifetime friendships.

**Jane Seymour OBE**

