

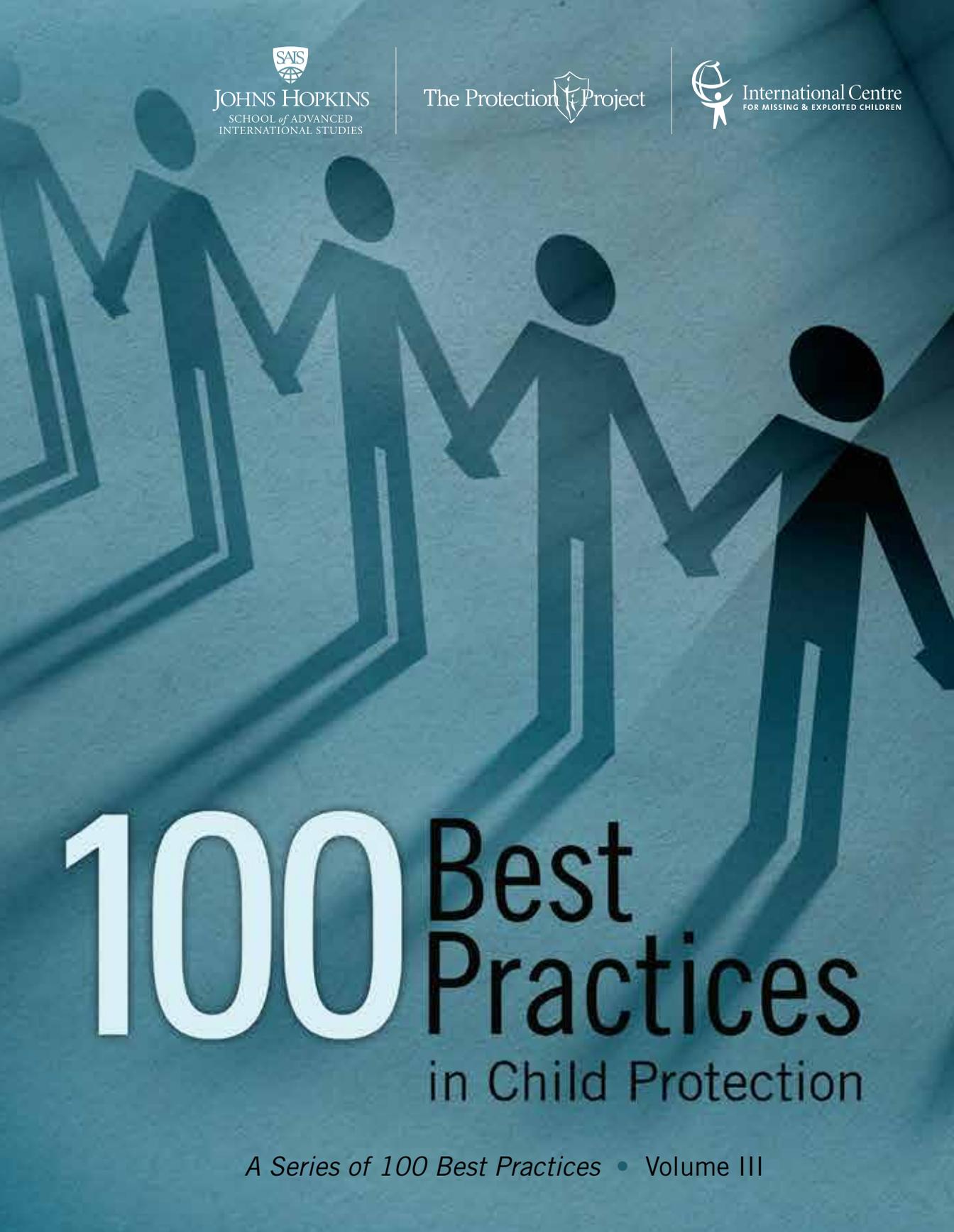


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SCHOOL of ADVANCED  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Protection Project



International Centre  
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

A large background graphic consisting of a series of stylized human silhouettes in various shades of blue, holding hands in a line that recedes into the distance. The silhouettes are simple, with rounded heads and rectangular bodies.

# 100 Best Practices in Child Protection

*A Series of 100 Best Practices* • Volume III

# 100 Best Practices

in Child Protection





## **100 Best Practices in Child Protection**

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The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University  
Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies  
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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b>Part I. Child Protection Principles and Definitions</b>	
1. Drafting National Legislation with Broad Child Protection Objectives . . . . .	6
2. Defining the Age of a Child as under 18 . . . . .	7
3. Considering the Best Interests of the Child . . . . .	8
4. Adhering to the Principle of Non-Discrimination . . . . .	9
5. Including International Standards in National Legislation . . . . .	10
<b>Part II. Child Protection Measures and Services</b>	
6. Providing Treatment, Therapies, and Access to Services for Traumatized Children and Families . . . . .	12
7. Training Law Enforcement on Human Trafficking . . . . .	13
8. Monitoring Legislation and Identifying New Child Protection Laws . . . . .	14
9. Developing a National Child Protection Framework. . . . .	15
10. Utilizing Animation to Achieve Children’s Participation in Child Rights Advocacy . . . . .	16
11. Breaking the Cycle of Abandonment . . . . .	17
12. Providing Web-based Medical Assessments for Victims of Child Abuse . . . . .	18
13. Providing Online Virtual Simulation in Training Social Work Students . . . . .	19
14. Ensuring a Better Quality of Life for Families through the Development of National Policies and Strategies . . . . .	20
15. Facilitating Regional Cooperation in Addressing the Transnational People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons through Information Sharing and Other Initiatives . . . . .	21
16. Providing a Global Hotline for Victims of Child Abuse . . . . .	22
17. Mandating Reporting on Child Maltreatment . . . . .	23
18. Utilizing Cash Transfers to Enhance Child Protection . . . . .	24
19. Supporting the Right to Safe Accommodation and the Principles of Alternative Care . . . . .	25
20. Creating Tougher Sanctions for Crimes Committed against Children. . . . .	26
21. Compensating Child Victims of Abuse and Exploitation . . . . .	27
22. Requiring Asset Forfeiture in Cases of Child Abuse . . . . .	28
<b>Part III. Protection of Children in the Family and Community</b>	
23. Teaching Children and Caregivers about Personal Safety and Developing Resources for Families . . . . .	30
24. Educating Women and Expectant Mothers about Health Issues through Text Messages. . . . .	31
25. Protecting Children’s Health by Preventing and Treating Malnutrition . . . . .	32

26. Deterring the Abuse of Girls through Education and Community Awareness . . . . .	33
27. Stopping Girl Trafficking through Education . . . . .	34
28. Protecting Children from Corporal Punishment . . . . .	35
29. Tackling Basic Education and Child Development through Experiential Learning Using Sports and Play	36
30. Equipping Children with the Tools to Improve Chances of Graduating from High School . . . . .	37
31. Integrating the Mass Media to Address Children’s Rights . . . . .	38
32. Protecting Children from Falling into Delinquency through Cultural Studies and the Arts . . . . .	39
33. Addressing Trafficking by Developing Open Source Computer Technology to Better Coordinate Investigation Efforts and Monitor Trafficking Patterns . . . . .	40
34. Providing Programs to Support Child Abuse Victims, Foster Peer Support, and Protect Children with Disabilities . . . . .	41
35. Fighting Child Trafficking through Case Tracking, Protective Services, and Information Dissemination Campaigns . . . . .	42
36. Empowering Child Victims of Trafficking and Slavery through Education and Job Training. . . . .	43
37. Mobilizing Community Action and Advocacy through Street Theater . . . . .	44
38. Providing Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services . . . . .	45
39. Creating and Promoting Well-Being and Fostering Children’s Participation in Society . . . . .	46
40. Seeking to Eliminate Violence against Girls by Providing Counseling, Shelter, and Community Support .	47
41. Raising Awareness about Child Abuse and Family Violence through Training and Education . . . . .	48
42. Researching, Reporting, and Advocating on Behalf of Romani Children Facing Child Marriage, Trafficking, and Other Forms of Abuse . . . . .	49
43. Advocating for Policy Change and Political Commitment on Issues Impacting Early Childhood Development . . . . .	50
44. Supporting Child Development by Encouraging Community Participation . . . . .	51
45. Providing Programs to Promote Child Rights and Child Protection . . . . .	52
46. Educating the Public about Child Sexual Abuse through Mass Media and Social Marketing Campaigns.	53
47. Educating Parents and Caregivers about Child Protection through a Research-Based Program . . . . .	54
48. Providing Individual Nurturing for Babies, Innovative Programs for Children, and Permanent Foster Homes for Children with Special Needs . . . . .	55
49. Relieving Distress and Sickness in Abandoned and Orphaned Children through Adoption Programs and Training Initiatives . . . . .	56
50. Creating Sustainable Projects to Provide Orphans with Nutrition, Clean Water, and Farming Skills . . . .	57
 <b>Part IV. Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation</b>	
51. Providing Psychological and Emotional Support for Women and Children Victims of Violence and Sexual Abuse . . . . .	59
52. Providing Shelter, Rehabilitation, and Counseling Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims . . . . .	60

53. Building Capacity of Child Survivors to Lead the Fight against Child Sexual Exploitation . . . . .	61
54. Enlisting Tourism Industry Actors in Adopting Policies to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation . . . . .	62
55. Enabling At-Risk and Victimized Girls to Live Independently . . . . .	63
56. Training Hotel Employees to Recognize Indicators of Child Sex Tourism . . . . .	64
57. Mobilizing the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation Enabled by Information and Communications Technology . . . . .	65
58. Educating Children about Sexual Abuse through Child-Friendly Trainings . . . . .	66
59. Highlighting the Work to Rescue and Restore Survivors of Underage Sex Trafficking through Documentary Film . . . . .	67
60. Providing a Brighter Future for Sex Trafficked and Sexually Exploited Adolescent Female Survivors . . . . .	68
61. Educating Children about Sexual Health . . . . .	69
62. Working with Vulnerable Communities to Offer Services and Education Opportunities to At Risk Children . . . . .	70
63. Educating and Empowering Youth to be Activists Fighting Trafficking in Their Region . . . . .	71
64. Monitoring and Evaluating Tourism Companies to Enhance Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation . . . . .	72
65. Providing Information and Assistance for Groups At Risk of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking . . . . .	73
66. Providing a Helpline on Children’s Issues and Special School Programs for At-Risk and Delinquent Youth . . . . .	74
67. Combating Child Molestation through Public Media Campaigns . . . . .	75
68. Preventing Violence and Abuse through Child-Centered Workshops Promoting Self-Confidence . . . . .	76
69. Providing Assistance to Children of Women in Sexual Exploitation. . . . .	77
70. Educating Children about Cyber Bullying and Stranger Danger . . . . .	78
71. Facilitating a Safer Internet to Raise Awareness of Risks to Children Online and to Combat Abuse . . . . .	79
72. Providing Adequate Services to Meet the Needs of Migrant Children . . . . .	80

#### **Part V. Protection of Children from Economic Exploitation**

73. Preventing Child Marriage and Child Labor through Education and Training . . . . .	82
74. Protecting Children from Economic Exploitation . . . . .	83
75. Combating Child Labor with an Educational Initiative . . . . .	84
76. Working with Local Councils to Strengthen Schools and Social Welfare Institutions and Abolish Child Labor . . . . .	85
77. Working to Eliminate Child Labor in the Tobacco Sector to Provide Children with Greater Opportunities . . . . .	86
78. Striving to Improve the Quality of Life of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children . . . . .	87
79. Combating Child Labor Exploitation by Providing Educational Opportunities. . . . .	88
80. Helping Urban Migrant Children through Social and Educational Programs . . . . .	89

## **Part VI. Protection of Children in Situations of Emergency**

81. Drawing Attention to the Plight of Child Refugees through Media Campaigns and Research Reports . . .	91
82. Ensuring Adequate Treatment Services to Child Torture Survivors . . . . .	92
83. Supporting Child Soldiers and Other Children Affected by Conflict through Counseling, Education, and Vocational Training . . . . .	93
84. Providing Direct Counseling Support and Recreational Outlets for Children in Conflict Areas . . . . .	94
85. Assisting Refugee and Special Needs Children in Living Stable Childhoods through Education and Creative Play . . . . .	95
86. Providing Shelter, Counseling, and Education Programs to At-Risk Street Children . . . . .	96
87. Helping Children Orphaned by Genocide . . . . .	97
88. Providing Impoverished and Orphaned Children in Areas of Political Transition with Access to Education and Support Centers . . . . .	98

## **Part VII. Protection of Children in the Justice System**

89. Providing Innovative Techniques for Reducing Victim Stress during Court Interviews and Medical Examinations . . . . .	100
90. Assessing Protection Systems and Building Practitioner Capacity in Child Protection and Advocacy Organizations. . . . .	101
91. Ensuring that Children Disclosing Abuse are Protected by Intervention Systems . . . . .	102
92. Providing Education, Shelter, and Economic Empowerment to Children through Advocacy and Services . . . . .	103
93. Investigating, Prosecuting and Monitoring Cases of Child Exploitation . . . . .	104
94. Providing Healthcare to Children Living in Jails Due to the Imprisonment of their Parents. . . . .	105
95. Conducting Investigations of Trafficking Abuses and Mobilizing Intervention on Behalf of Trafficking Victims . . . . .	106
96. Providing Legal Counseling and Other Assistance to Child Victims and Child Witnesses . . . . .	107
97. Reducing Youth Detention and Incarceration through a Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign . . . . .	108
98. Improving Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care by Promoting Youth Participation in Court Cases . . . .	109
99. Assisting Children in Testifying against Traffickers and Abusers and Obtaining Necessary Documentation for Reintegration . . . . .	110
100. Ensuring Justice, Pre-Trial Safe Custody, and Counseling for Child Victims of Forced Prostitution . . .	111

## Introduction

Children are among our most vulnerable populations. The injustices many children suffer are unspeakable and occur in all corners of the globe, in all walks of life. The term “child protection” is very broad and can encompass a wide range of issues. Custody and support, child abuse and neglect, violence against children, child prostitution, child pornography, sex tourism, child labor, and trafficking in children are just some of the issues that arise when discussing child protection. Civil society organizations and government agencies are actively working around the world to address many of these problems and to better provide broad protections for children.

The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children encourage the dissemination of information on child protection best practices. This guide is intended to offer examples of some successful initiatives undertaken by civil society organizations as well as individuals and government agencies concerned with protecting children around the world.

The document is divided into seven parts—Part I focuses on child protection principles and definitions; Part II highlights several child protection measures and services; Part III presents initiatives focused on the protection of children in the family and community; Part IV looks at programs aimed at the protection of children from sexual exploitation; Part V includes examples of projects focused on the protection of children from economic exploitation; Part VI looks at the protection of children in situations of emergency, including armed conflict; and Part VII features the protection of children in the justice system. This division of issues follows the topics addressed by the “Child Protection Model Law – Best Practices: Protection of Children from Neglect, Abuse, Maltreatment, and Exploitation” another publication based on a joint research initiative of The Protection Project and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.



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Mohamed Mattar  
Senior Research Professor of International Law  
and Executive Director,  
The Protection Project



Sandra S. Marchenko  
Director, The Koons Family  
Institute on International Law & Policy  
International Centre for  
Missing and Exploited Children



# **Part I.**

## **Child Protection Principles and Definitions**

# 1. Drafting National Legislation with Broad Child Protection Objectives

## Child Protection Acts of Argentina and Congo

*Argentina, Law of Integral Protection of the Rights of the Child, Law 26.061, 2005, article 9:*

Children and adolescents have the right to dignity as right holders and developing people; not to be subjected to violent, discriminatory, degrading, humiliating, intimidating treatment; not to be subjected to any form of economic exploitation, torture, abuse or neglect, sexual exploitation, abduction or trafficking for any purpose or in any form or cruel or degrading condition.

Children and adolescents have the right to physical, sexual, psychological and moral integrity.

*Congo, Democratic Republic, Law No. 09/001 of January 10, 2009 Regarding the Protection of Children, article 62:*

The following is considered to be in a difficult situation which gives the benefits of special protection:

1. A child that has been rejected, abandoned, exposed to negligence, wandering and begging or found begging, wandering or that commonly engages in wandering and begging;
2. A child who, by his/her wrongful behavior or his/her lack of discipline, gives to his/her parents or tutors or his/her family and friends a reason for discontentment;
3. A child who engages in debauchery or finds his/her resources in gambling or in trafficking or in any occupation exposing him/her to prostitution, begging, wandering or criminality;
4. A child who lacks protection, in a manifest or continuous way, or who does not attend any educational establishment or does not exercise any professional activity;
5. A child who is habitually mistreated;
6. A child who is sexually or economically exploited;
7. A child who is accused of witchcraft;
8. A child who is a mother or pregnant and is being mistreated by her parents or tutors;
9. A child who is without any family support or other support following the loss of his/her parents;
10. A child living with a handicap;
11. A child who is a drug addict;
12. An orphan;

A gifted child also benefits from a special protection.

## 2. Defining the Age of a Child as under 18

### Child Protection Laws of Colombia, Japan, and Latvia

*Colombia, Law No. 1098/2006 Issuing the Code of Childhood and Adolescence, 2006, article 3:*

For all purposes of this Act beneficiaries under the law are all persons under 18. Without prejudice to Article 34 of the Civil Code, the term child refers to people between 0 and 12 years, and adolescent to people between 12 and 18 years of age.

In case of doubt about the majority or minority, the latter is presumed. In case of doubt about the age of a child or adolescent the younger age shall be presumed. The judicial or administrative authorities order the taking of evidence to determine the age, and once established will confirm or revoke the measures and authorize the necessary corrections according to the law.

*Japan, Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children, Act No. 52 of May 26, 1999, as amended 2004, article 9:*

No one who uses a child shall be exempt from punishment pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5 to 8 on the grounds of lacking knowledge of the age of the child. However, this shall not apply in cases where there is no negligence.

*Latvia, Protection of the Rights of the Child Law, 1998, section 3:*

A child is a person who has not attained 18 years of age, excepting such persons for whom according to law, majority takes effect earlier, that is, persons, who have been declared to be of the age of majority or have entered into marriage before attaining 18 years of age.

## 3. Considering the Best Interests of the Child

### Australia

*Australia/Capital Territory, Children and Young People Act, Act 2008-19, as amended by Act 2009-28, section 9:*

- (1) In making a decision under this Act in relation to a child or young person, a decision-maker must have regard to the following principles where relevant, except when it is, or would be, contrary to the best interests of a child or young person:
  - (a) the child's or young person's sense of racial, ethnic, religious, individual or cultural identity should be preserved and enhanced;
  - (b) the child's or young person's education, training or lawful employment should be encouraged and continued without unnecessary interruption;
  - (c) the child's or young person's age, maturity, developmental capacity, sex, background and other relevant characteristics should be considered;
  - (d) delay in decision-making processes under the Act should be avoided because delay is likely to prejudice the child's or young person's wellbeing.
- (2) A decision-maker exercising a function under this Act must, where practicable and appropriate, have qualifications, experience or skills suitable to apply the principles in subsection (1) in making decisions under the Act in relation to children and young people.

*Australia/Victoria, Children, Youth and Families Act, No. 96 of 2005, as amended in 2009, section 10:*

In addition ... in determining what decision to make or action to take in the best interests of the child, consideration must be given to the following, where they are relevant to the decision or action –

- (a) the need to give the widest possible protection and assistance to the parent and child as the fundamental group unit of society and to ensure that intervention into that relationship is limited to that necessary to secure the safety and wellbeing of the child;
- (b) the need to strengthen, preserve and promote positive relationships between the child and the child's parent, family members and persons significant to the child; ...
- (d) the child's views and wishes, if they can be reasonably ascertained, and they should be given such weight as is appropriate in the circumstances; ...
- (f) the desirability of continuity and stability in the child's care; ...
- (l) the child's social, individual and cultural identity and religious faith (if any) and the child's age, maturity, sex and sexual identity; ...
- (n) the desirability of the child being supported to gain access to appropriate educational services, health services and accommodation and to participate in appropriate social opportunities; ...

## 4. Adhering to the Principle of Non-Discrimination

### Child Protection Acts of Estonia, Ghana, and Latvia

*Estonia, Republic of Estonia Child Protection Act, RT I 1992, 28, 370, as amended by Act RT I 2004, 27, 180, section 10:*

The Child has an equal right to receive assistance and care and to develop, regardless of his or her sex, ethnic origin, regardless of whether the child lives in a two parent family or single parent family, whether the child is adopted or under curatorship, whether the child is born in wedlock or out of wedlock, or whether the child is healthy, ill or disabled.

*Ghana, Act 560, The Children's Act, 1998, section 3:*

No person shall discriminate against a child on the grounds of gender, race, age, religion, disability, health status, custom, ethnic origin, rural or urban background, birth or other status, socio-economic status or because the child is a refugee.

*Latvia, Protection of the Rights of the Child Law, 1998, section 3 paragraph 2:*

The State shall ensure the rights and freedoms of all children without any discrimination – irrespective of race, nationality, gender, language, political party alliance, political or religious convictions, national, ethnic or social origin, place of residence in the State, property or health status, birth or other circumstances of the child, or of his or her parents, guardians, or family members.

## 5. Including International Standards in National Legislation

### Child Protection Acts and Bills in Egypt, Lithuania, and Syria

*Egypt, Law No. 12 of 1996 Promulgating the Child Law as amended by Law No. 126, 2008, article 1:*

... Furthermore, the State shall, as a minimum, guarantee the rights of the child, as stated in the Convention of the Rights of the Child and all other relevant international covenants enforced in Egypt.

*Syria, Bill of the Rights of the Child, 2006, article 321:*

In the absence of a provision in this law and in all cases, principles and provisions of the Constitution, the Convention on the Rights of the Child No. (44/25) dated 20/11/1982, and the two Optional Protocols thereto No. (263) dated 25/5/2000 regarding the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and the involvement of children in armed conflict should be taken into consideration.

*Lithuania – Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child, Act No. I-1234, 1996, article 1*

The purpose of this Law is improvement of legal protection of children within the country, through establishment of principles in defence of the rights and freedoms of the child, coordinated with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and international law norms and principles.

Within this Law are established the fundamental rights, freedoms and obligations of the child, and the most important guarantees of protection and defence of these rights and freedoms, based upon the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the 1959 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other norms and principles of international law, while taking into account the specific situation of the child within family and society and national law traditions, fundamental rights, freedoms and obligations of the child and the most important guarantees for the defence thereof. ...

## **Part II.**

# **Child Protection Measures and Services**

## 6. Providing Treatment, Therapies, and Access to Services for Traumatized Children and Families

### National Child Traumatic Stress Network – United States

Mandated by Congress in 2000, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) represents a comprehensive federal initiative to address childhood trauma. The NCTSN pairs frontline providers and researchers with victims, thus facilitating information sharing and enhancing access to services for professionals and families.

The NCTSN offers topical information for participants of all ages. Following natural disasters, for instance, the NCTSN acts as a first-responder, sharing coping mechanisms and strategies to alleviate stress with those affected.

NCTSN works with systems of care such as child welfare, juvenile justice, and military family service systems to ensure that families, practitioners, and institutions are informed of the serious impact of child traumatic stress. The NCTSN also conducts training on appropriate victim response and provides resources for victim and financial compensation assistance.

A variety of educational programs and trainings are offered. Representatives of NCTSN provide training sessions on the interventions and techniques used in their centers.

## 7. Training Law Enforcement on Human Trafficking

### ATSEC Bihar – India

ATSEC Bihar provides training programs for law enforcement to increase awareness of trafficking, improve support and sensitivity for child trafficking victims, and create a child-friendly system. The objectives of the multi-day training sessions include teaching officials about anti-trafficking laws; highlighting and analyzing the actual scenarios of trafficking; and recommending concrete and detailed action plans for addressing the problem.

In addition, ATSEC strives to raise public awareness on child protection and human trafficking. In partnership with the Government of Bihar and the Crime Investigation Department of the Bihar Police, and in collaboration with Save the Children, ATSEC held a month-long community awareness campaign to spread the message of protecting children's rights, and hosted a number of anti-trafficking activities in urban and rural communities that reached several thousand people and facilitated further dialogue on the issue.

---

*Source:*

<http://www.atsecbihar.org/index.php>

## 8. Monitoring Legislation and Identifying New Child Protection Laws

### Defence for Children International – Palestine

A critical component of the work done in Palestine by Defence for Children International (DCI) is the Protection and Community Mobilization Programme. This program, executed in cooperation with the Child Justice Unit and the local Child Protection Network, builds the capacity of legal specialists, police officers, probation officers, and prosecutors and employs the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a global reference in identifying strategies and programs.

The Protection and Community Mobilization Program monitors the policies, laws, strategies, and directives of child rights enforcers. In addition, it oversees the drafting of national child protection laws, including the Juvenile Justice Draft Law.

Ultimately, DCI seeks to create a fair, integrated, and stable system for children in conflict with the law and child victims of violence. The Child Protection Network and DCI work to enhance the agency of relevant stakeholders, evidence-based lobbying and advocacy, and both legal and psycho-social support in the Palestinian territories.

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*Source:*

<http://www.defenceforchildren.org/dci-worldwide/middle-east/palestine.html>

<http://www.dci-palestine.org/>

## 9. Developing a National Child Protection Framework

### Center for Child Protection – Indonesia

Columbia University, UNICEF, and the University of Indonesia joined to launch the Center for Child Protection with a shared goal of improving child protection systems in Indonesia.

The Center for Child Protection strives to serve as a national Center for Excellence and aims to develop a comprehensive and sustainable child protection framework that will help child protection programs and policies progress. The Center hopes to enhance the capacity of academics, practitioners, and policy makers to develop national models for evidence-based projects.

The Center for Child Protection is pursuing these goals through a variety of activities including:

- Conducting research to support systems- and evidence-based programming and policy development;
- Training to build the capacity of academic leaders, government officials, and civil society practitioners;
- Supporting curriculum design with a skills-based concentration encouraging future generations to remain dedicated to improving the lives of children in Indonesia and beyond.

For example, the Center for Child Protection partnered with the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Center for Law and Policy Studies, and AusAID's Partnership for Justice to simplify the birth registration process throughout Indonesia. Through these efforts, disadvantaged families in remote locations are now able to apply collectively for the legal documents which are processed through circuit courts that reach the most remote areas and they may obtain birth certificates from civil registrars who are invited to the court to make everything available in a single location.

---

*Source:*

<http://www.cpcnetwork.org/indonesia.php>

## 10. Utilizing Animation to Achieve Children's Participation in Child Rights Advocacy

### **Manara Network for Child Rights & Save the Children Sweden – Lebanon**

Manara Network Partners work on the Animate IT method to produce advocacy messages in their work and campaigns. This involves child participation throughout the process of producing the animated films. Children use animation to discuss their concerns, report on their situation, and educate other children and adults about issues important to their lives. Through this medium, children are able to tell their stories free of external effects such as social pressures. Animation taps into children's creative potential to enable them to better express themselves. The method is aimed at providing children with a space to discuss and advocate for their rights. The children are fully responsible for making all parts of the film: they write the story, draw and color the characters in the film, and give voices to the characters they create. Their stories are thus told through a third person of their making.

---

*Sources:*

<http://manararc.org/>

<http://www.savethechildren.se/>

# 11. Breaking the Cycle of Abandonment

## Kidsave – Russia

It is estimated that nearly 200,000 orphans are currently growing up without families in state institutions in Russia. Kidsave Russia, the Russia extension of Kidsave, an international organization dedicated to child protection worldwide, has implemented the Family Visit Model. The Family Visit Model encourages adoption and moving children from institutions into families. Participating families host orphans during the summer, holidays, and weekends, allowing the children an opportunity to experience and benefit from family life. Sometimes, this arrangement leads to family mentorships of an orphaned youth, or, at best, adoption.

In 2004, Kidsave also introduced the Malenkaya Mama (Young Mother) program in St. Petersburg to keep children at risk of abandonment out of the orphanages by teaching teenage mothers and pregnant teens, many of them girls from the orphanages, how to care for their babies. In 2010, the program expanded to Moscow, further enabling Kidsave to help young mothers become better parents by working with trained social workers and psychologists who assist them in establishing strong and healthy parent-child relationships. Outside of the home, Kidsave works with youth mothers to enroll in programs aimed at receiving access to government benefits, obtaining job skills in well-paying or steady sectors, and finding housing and jobs.

As the result of the program's demonstrated success, Kidsave programs and projects have been adopted by their local government child welfare systems. Kidsave's Family Visit Program was integrated into the child welfare structure in the Smolensk region in 2008 and the implementing NGO is now in large part funded by the Russian Federal Government. Further, Kidsave's family placement program, an extension of the Family Visit program, has been formally integrated into the government system and the Department of Education has built and operationalized the Regional Center for Family Placement on Sakhalin Island. Kidsave provides educational materials and training guides to instruct social workers, psychologists, and other child welfare professionals in the region on engaging with orphaned children, caring families, and local communities in youth enrichment and family visit programs.

---

*Source:*

[www.kidsave.org/programs-3/russia](http://www.kidsave.org/programs-3/russia)

## 12. Providing Web-based Medical Assessments for Victims of Child Abuse

### CPT Telemedicine and Telehealth Network – United States

Telemedicine uses innovative technology to provide and support clinical care at a distance. The Child Protection Team of the Telemedicine Network utilizes this technology to provide medical assessments for children that became victims of abuse or neglect.

Telemedicine connects a child from one location with a health care professional in another location through the help of a doctor or nurse practitioner at the hub site who directs the medical examination. A registered nurse at the remote site meets the child, explains the process and equipment, and assists with the medical examination. Medical professionals are able to see the exam and diagnose the child from a distance.

This technology provides many benefits including:

- Increasing the availability of local medical experts to evaluate children who may have been abused;
- Reducing the number of children who need to travel to obtain an evaluation;
- Increasing the number of successful court actions by improving local expert court testimony;
- Creating new roles for nursing staff in evaluating these cases; and
- Increasing training opportunities for local health care providers.

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*Source:*

[http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/families/child\\_protection\\_safety/cpt\\_telemedicine.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/families/child_protection_safety/cpt_telemedicine.html)

## 13. Providing Online Virtual Simulation in Training Social Work Students

### University of Cumbria – United Kingdom

The University of Cumbria provides students from a variety of disciplines including nurses, social workers, and rehabilitation therapists with online virtual simulation trainings to guide them in handling patients in crisis. The University offers an innovative training approach by giving students and practitioners the opportunity to realistically engage in a community and with its citizens.

Utilizing [Stilwell: A Virtual Simulation Model](#), students enter Stilwell, a virtual community, and become familiar with residents who then become their patients. Users are able to immerse themselves in the community and interact individually with the residents. For instance, students will “meet” Debbie, a victim of child sexual abuse, and can follow her life through a series of documents, including personal reflections and medical assessments, among other sources. Students are also able to help victims of drug abuse, homelessness, and broader child protection issues.

The realistic learning space offers insight into properly dealing with victims of traumas and the opportunity to learn and practice victim-assistance techniques within a no-harm online environment. In addition, the University has been increasingly using the Stilwell software to train local law enforcement on properly responding to victims of abuse.

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Source:

[www.stilwelleducation.com](http://www.stilwelleducation.com)

## 14. Ensuring a Better Quality of Life for Families through the Development of National Policies and Strategies

### National Council for Family Affairs – Jordan

The National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) operating in Jordan was founded by Royal Decree in 2001. Utilizing a multi-faceted approach that engages both governmental and non-governmental organizations through strong partnerships, the National Council for Family Affairs facilitates, coordinates, and monitors the development of national policies and programs related to family development.

The role of the National Council for Family Affairs includes, but is not limited to:

- A national policy think-tank that develops, amends, and modifies existing policies relevant to family affairs through research and scientific programs;
- A coordinating and monitoring body which, in conjunction with partner organizations, monitors the development of relevant national programs and strategies; and
- An advocacy body for family issues that galvanizes country-wide support for projects and programs that affect the family and the rights of the family unit.

## 15. Facilitating Regional Cooperation in Addressing the Transnational People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons through Information Sharing and Other Initiatives

### Bali Process – Asia Pacific

The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime is an important multilateral initiative co-chaired by the governments of Indonesia and Australia to outline areas of cooperation in the fight against smuggling, trafficking, and related transnational crime in the Asia-Pacific region. Members of the Bali Process include 45 states throughout the broader Asia-Pacific region as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in addition to a number of observers.

Through effective information and intelligence sharing, law enforcement cooperation, and coordination on border and visa systems to identify and prevent irregular or questionable movements, the Bali Process actively facilitates regional cooperation in addressing transnational crimes. The Bali Process engages governments and the populace in this effort through increased public awareness efforts targeting the demand side and vulnerable parties who may be at risk of exploitation and by encouraging the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation.

The Bali Process actively coordinates major source, transit, and destination countries to identify a specific regional response framework to target current irregular migration challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. It also addresses the migration challenges that children face through its programs, for example “Mapping and Analyzing the Protection Situation of Unaccompanied and Separated Children in South East Asia.”

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*Source:*

[http://www.baliprocess.net/files/RSO/RSO\\_UASC%20Project\\_Final\\_060912.pdf](http://www.baliprocess.net/files/RSO/RSO_UASC%20Project_Final_060912.pdf)

## 16. Providing a Global Hotline for Victims of Child Abuse

### Child Helpline International – The Netherlands

Child Helpline International (CHI) is a global network of telephone helplines and outreach services for children and young people. It was inaugurated by the Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Working in over 140 countries, CHI was founded on the belief that children and young people have rights, and that they alone are the best individuals to identify their problems. As an organization devoted to securing children's rights, CHI is committed to maintaining the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Child helplines not only provide children with their fundamental right to be heard, but they also play an instrumental role in shaping, strengthening and filling the gaps of existing national child protection systems. Often, child helplines are a young person's first point of contact with child protection services and the most trusted and accessible gateway for them to find help. In 2011, over 22 million children contacted the child helplines in the CHI network.

Child helplines are in the unique position of being privy to children's true voices, as they themselves choose to express them. Realizing the potential of this wealth of information, CHI collects data from all of its member child helplines worldwide on the numbers and nature of contacts they receive. CHI uses this data to advocate globally for children and their rights, as set down in the CRC, and to help pave the way to consolidating and strengthening national child protection systems.

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*Source:*

<http://www.childhelplineinternational.org/>

# 17. Mandating Reporting on Child Maltreatment

## Child Welfare Information Gateway – United States

The Child Welfare Information Gateway, a service of the Children’s Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides access to publications, websites, databases, and online learning tools for improving child welfare practice.

The Child Welfare Information Gateway has compiled a publication containing detailed information on each state’s laws, mandated within federal legislation that designates professions whose members must report instances of child maltreatment. These are professionals who typically have regular contact with children and may include, but are not limited to, social workers, teachers and other school personnel, physicians, nurses and other health-care professionals, counselors, therapists, mental health workers, child care providers, medical examiners, and law enforcement officers. Court-appointed special advocates are mandatory reporters in ten States and members of the clergy are now required to report in 27 States and Guam.

The standards for making a report vary from State to State. Generally, when in official capacity, a reporter suspects or has reason to believe that a child has been neglected or abused, a report must be made. Another common standard used is in instances when the reporter has knowledge of, or observes a child being subjected to, conditions which would reasonably result in harm to the child.

To ensure that States are able to protect children in dangerous, abusive, or negligent situations, the reporting laws in most States and U.S. Territories restrict the privilege typically afforded to confidential communications between professionals and their clients, patients, or congregants. In addition, most states maintain toll-free telephone numbers for receiving reports of abuse and reports may be made anonymously. The identity of the reporter is specifically protected from disclosure to the alleged perpetrator in 39 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

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*Source:*

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/statutes/manda.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.pdf)

# 18. Utilizing Cash Transfers to Enhance Child Protection

## Save the Children – Global

In many parts of the world, poverty and other economic factors contribute to the exploitation of children. A recent study by Save the Children, *Cash and Child Protection: How Cash Transfer Programming Can Protect Children from Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Violence*, analyzed the use of ‘cash transfer’ programming to realize child protection outcomes in emergency and non-emergency situations. The direct and indirect impacts of cash transfer programs on child protection were discussed and ultimately cash transfers were shown to positively impact the education, nutrition/ food security, and livelihoods of the children whose families received the cash transfer and helped to reduce instances of child labor including sex work, child marriage, and child soldiers.

In Cote d’Ivoire, girls in the poorest 20% of households are three times as likely to be married as girls in the richest 20% of households. And historically, times of economic crisis and conflict showed an increase in rates of child marriage, leading to lower levels of overall development including schooling, employment, and healthcare. The findings of the report suggest that cash transfers can help to reduce the rates of early marriage by making girls’ education and employment opportunities a condition of receipt of the cash transfer.

The use of cash transfers, while still under-explored, may be an important element of a broad child protection framework, including awareness-raising and vocational training, which can effectively reduce child exploitation.

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Source:

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/cash-and-child-protection>

# 19. Supporting the Right to Safe Accommodation and the Principles of Alternative Care

## Alternative Care Advisory Committee – Cambodia

Under the aegis of the Prime Minister, the Alternative Care Advisory Committee established a Policy on Alternative Care for Children in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Within the Policy, definitions are offered, minimum standards presented, and principles outlined. These principles include the following:

- Family care and community care are the best options for alternative care;
- Institutional care should be a last resort and a temporary solution;
- Specific strategies and measures shall be established to support parents to raise their own children and send them to school;
- These strategies and measures shall also be directed to families, relatives, and communities caring for children where parental care is not possible, in order to avoid institutionalization;
- Residential care and/or community or family-based care should strive to meet minimum standards developed within the Framework of this Policy. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation is the competent institution responsible for leading and implementing this Policy. NGOs which provide alternative care services shall request permission from and sign an agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation.

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*Sources:*

[http://www.worldwideopen.org/uploads/resources/files/505/ALT006\\_Policy\\_on\\_Alternative\\_Care\\_for\\_Children-Eng.pdf](http://www.worldwideopen.org/uploads/resources/files/505/ALT006_Policy_on_Alternative_Care_for_Children-Eng.pdf)

<http://cpconference2012.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/1-cambodia1.pdf>

## 20. Creating Tougher Sanctions for Crimes Committed against Children

### Ukrainian Parliament – Ukraine

Recently, the Ukrainian Parliament voted to strengthen penalties for crimes committed against children. The MPs voted in favor of the bill in its first reading, amending the Criminal Code of Ukraine on toughening penalties for crimes committed against children.

Stricter penalties that were added include imprisonment for up to three years with disqualification from holding certain posts or practicing certain activities for up to five years. The bill also toughens penalties for using guardianship or custody with a covert purpose which is detrimental to a child, including the use of property.

This effort complements a recent American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in the country to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Interior's investigative units to improve investigation standards and standard operating procedures for human trafficking cases.

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*Source:*

Criminal Code of Ukraine, 2001, as amended in 2010, article 137

<http://www.iupdp.org/component/content/article/1-latest-news/1663-parliament-toughens-sanctions-for-crimes-against-children>

## 21. Compensating Child Victims of Abuse and Exploitation

### Attorney General of Texas – United States

Under the 1979 Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Act, the state of Texas created a fund and established statutory guidelines for providing certain benefits to children who are abused and neglected and are, therefore, victims of a crime. In response to the physical and emotional harm suffered because of violence, abuse, or exploitation, an award can help pay for medical expenses and counseling.

The Office of the Attorney General administers the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. Staff members work with victims and claimants to ensure that all available resources are utilized in the best interests of the victim. The fund is authorized to award cash payments to or on behalf of a claimant or victim for monetary losses incurred as a result of child abuse. Victims may also be referred to rehabilitative services or may be provided with counseling services.

The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund provides benefits to children and their families and attempts to repair the damage done to the abused child, with abuse including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and/or neglect.

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*Source:*

[https://www.oag.state.tx.us/ag\\_publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml](https://www.oag.state.tx.us/ag_publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml)

## 22. Requiring Asset Forfeiture in Cases of Child Abuse

### Colorado and Florida State Laws – United States

In the state of Colorado, asset forfeiture is applicable to buildings, land, vehicles, and any real property used in the commission of crimes against children including sexually exploiting a child, soliciting a child for prostitution, pandering of a child, keeping a place of child prostitution, pimping of a child, or inducement of child prostitution. Falling within the civil system, in these cases asset forfeiture is mandatory. According to the law, property is to be sold and then used to pay any liens, compensate an innocent partial owner and any person who suffers bodily injury or property damage as result of the nuisance, in addition to others. Any remaining balance shall be split with half being delivered to the general fund of the governmental body with budgetary authority and the other half to the organization that administers behavior health programs where the forfeiture was prosecuted.

In Florida, any felony involving the selling or buying of minors into sex trafficking or prostitution, procuring a person under the age of 18 for prostitution, sexual performance by a child, kidnapping, luring or enticing a child, selling or buying of minors, and lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons less than 16 years of age will result in the forfeiture of assets. When kidnapping of a child under age 13 occurs, aggravated circumstances will enhance the penalty further. Also falling within the civil system, under such circumstances, in the state of Florida, the forfeiture is mandatory.

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*Source:*

Col. Rev. Stat. §16-13-303

Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, §§ 932.701-932.707

[http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Asset\\_forfitures.pdf](http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Asset_forfitures.pdf)

## **Part III.**

# **Protection of Children in the Family and Community**

## 23. Teaching Children and Caregivers about Personal Safety and Developing Resources for Families

### Tulir Centre for the Prevention & Healing of Child Sexual Abuse – India

The Tulir Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse, a nonprofit organization working to prevent child sexual abuse in India, offers a variety of programs and services to combat and heal sexual abuse in all strata of society. The Personal Safety Education program is a school-based curriculum designed to enable children to engage in their own protection. By providing tangible, relatable information while developing an assertive decision-making capacity, students are able to better protect themselves and turn learning into practice.

Personal Safety Education instructs children on the difference between “just touch,” which is experienced by the receiver (child) as warm, caring, nurturing, and supportive, “unjust touch” which makes the child feel bad or inflicts pain, and “confusing touch” which makes the child feel uncomfortable, uneasy, or confused, and how to distinguish between these types of behaviors and respond accordingly. The course also teaches assertiveness skills, fosters a support system for young people that includes their family, friends, school, and community, and builds self-esteem.

The Tulir Centre routinely develops and publishes resources, including posters, booklets, and training guides on child sexual abuse for the parents and families of victims of abuse. A recent publication, *A Parent’s Practical Response to Child Sexual Abuse*, aims at addressing parents’ anxieties regarding child sexual abuse and offers helpful suggestions on ways for parents to talk to their abused child and how to respond to suspected cases of abuse.

## 24. Educating Women and Expectant Mothers about Health Issues through Text Messages

### Text4baby – United States/Russia

Text4baby, a free health text messaging service in the U.S., is a public-private partnership that utilizes mobile health technology to target issues related to maternal and child health. At no cost, subscribers receive three text messages weekly on subjects ranging from breastfeeding and healthy eating habits to the dangers of smoking and the use of chlorinated detergents.

Text4baby's innovative use of mobile health technology allows for widespread dissemination of health information, reaching those who may be at risk of being underserved during their pregnancy. Text4baby educational campaigns are timed to the pregnant woman's due date or the baby's birth and are available in English or Spanish.

Under the direction of National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, Text4baby messages are reviewed in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify priority topics and to ensure content accuracy. Various local, state, and federal agencies are consulted to provide input into the messaging development and partner in review of terminology to determine concise but clear messaging strategies.

The first international installment of Text4baby, Text4baby Russia, was launched in early 2011.

## 25. Protecting Children's Health by Preventing and Treating Malnutrition

### Fundación CONIN – Argentina

Fundación CONIN is a nonprofit organization based in Argentina that aims to eliminate malnutrition in children and promote the development of the family.

Since 1993, CONIN has worked to prevent malnutrition in children through educating parents and caretakers, conducting scientific research, and providing assistance. The proven effectiveness of the CONIN model has led to the creation of 40 prevention centers across 15 provinces in Argentina with more than 20 new centers underway.

The organization also strives to treat current cases of malnutrition in children by teaming up with the Nutrition Department and the Pediatric Department, among others, to diagnose and treat malnutrition in children.

## 26. Deterring the Abuse of Girls through Education and Community Awareness

### Project Nanhi Kali – India

Project Nanhi Kali is a campaign which educates girls in India to make them valued members of society and begin changing the deep-seated social norms and injustices that they face.

Together with Mahindra Foundation USA, Project Nanhi Kali aims to educate young girls and give them ten years of quality school education. In cooperation with 21 NGOs, girls receive year-long academic support and school materials. The Project is rooted in the belief that through education, girls can become valuable members of their communities, thereby catalyzing an attitudinal change in society. The teaching methodology incorporates innovative tools such as storytelling and group games in order to make learning meaningful and fun. The project also incorporates regular interactions with the families and the community to help ensure that the girls do not drop out of school.

In addition, the campaign promotes the film “The Girl Epidemic,” presenting a shocking and touching story about the discriminatory treatment of girls with over a million disappearing each year from infanticide, sex slavery, and child labor.

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*Sources:*

<http://www.nanhikali.org/>

<http://www.thegirlepidemic.org/>

## 27. Stopping Girl Trafficking through Education

### American Himalayan Foundation – United States/Nepal

After encountering hundreds of thousands of Nepali girls, some as young as nine, trapped in Indian brothels, the American Himalayan Foundation (AHF) initiated the *Stop Girl Trafficking* project. *Stop Girl Trafficking* combats human trafficking at the source. Visiting rural villages and local populations throughout Nepal, the American Himalayan Foundation counsels girls at-risk and their families about the warning signs of trafficking. Above all, AHF utilizes a preventative strategy that, at its foundation, encourages families to educate their daughters and supports girls to stay in school.

Although families were initially reluctant to send girls to school, the work of the American Himalayan Foundation has helped keep over 10,000 girls in 400 schools across Nepal since 1997 and not one of them has become a victim of human trafficking.

Public high school in Nepal ends at grade 10, when girls are only 16 years old. This level of education does not qualify high school graduates for many jobs. Therefore, AHF also provides an additional two to three years of education to ensure that the girls qualify for jobs in teaching, healthcare, or business and can contribute to their communities.

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Source:

[www.himalayan-foundation.org](http://www.himalayan-foundation.org)

## 28. Protecting Children from Corporal Punishment

### Plan International – India, Philippines, South Sudan, Togo, and Zimbabwe

In October 2008, Plan International launched the *Learn Without Fear* campaign to end violence in schools, including sexual violence and corporal punishment. Since launching its campaign, Plan has helped to catalyze new laws and policies, through program and advocacy work, to protect over 485 million children from violence in schools. This includes 431 million children in 27 countries who are now protected from corporal punishment as a form of discipline in schools.

In Bangladesh, Plan International was able to prompt the government to announce an outright ban on physical punishment in educational institutions in August 2010. In April 2011, this was underscored in a policy set out by the Ministry of Education. In Sierra Leone, Plan is working with other invested stakeholders on drafting district-level laws against corporal punishment, in the absence of a current legal framework prohibiting such action.

In challenging violence in schools, the *Learn Without Fear* campaign took a holistic approach, involving children, parents, teachers, police, lawyers, health and social workers. As a result of the campaign, close to 53,000 teachers received training in non-violent teaching methods with over 30,000 schools having direct involvement in the program.

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Source:

<http://plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear/learn-without-fear>

## 29. Tackling Basic Education and Child Development through Experiential Learning Using Sports and Play

### Right To Play – Global

Right To Play is an organization that actively promotes the importance of play as a tool for education and health and champions play and games as a valuable right that every child should enjoy. Right To Play also recognizes playtime as an active component in developing the emotional and mental capacity of children by using sports as a means by which to teach tolerance, patience, leadership, and cooperation.

The organization's three key activities are:

1. **Resource Development:** Design and development of specialized material which highlights the use of sport and recreation as a learning tool; promotion of experiential learning, applying the principles taught into practice; emphasize on the underlying methodology of Right To Play, the Reflect-Connect-Apply philosophy.
2. **Training:** Trainings for leaders, coaches, and other interested parties to engage participants on the Right To Play's activities and resources; interactive workshops that provide practical insight to support staff and volunteers on the roles within the organization.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Information gathering and regular project evaluation to improve project planning, resources, and program delivery.

## 30. Equipping Children with the Tools to Improve Chances of Graduating from High School

### Cimientos – Argentina

Staggering statistics show that nearly half of all Argentine children drop out of school before completing high school. Cimientos was founded by a group of professionals who believe that only through education can the cycle of poverty be broken.

Through inquiry and analysis, Cimientos seeks to remedy flaws in the Argentine educational system and implements programs that reflect three fundamental strategies: 1) the direct transfer of funds; 2) personalized mentoring; and 3) the discussion of experiences among participants.

Since 1998, the School Scholarship Program has been a key Cimientos initiative, providing financial assistance in the form of annual scholarships, personalized mentoring, and a safe space to discuss challenges and experiences for qualified students. This effort strives to improve the permanence of students from low-income families within the formal education system and to bolster their learning experience. Once students complete the Scholarship Program, they join the Cimientos Graduate Network, where they receive additional complementary assistance regarding job training resources and ongoing learning opportunities.

Utilizing a holistic approach, Cimientos is improving the Argentine education system by activating both the students and the schools which they are attending. The School Support Program improves the quality of education students receive in typically marginalized schools. The Program includes economic assistance, professional mentorship, school support, and the development of an informal partnership between teachers and trainers for two academic years.

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*Source:*

[www.cimientos.org/english](http://www.cimientos.org/english)

## 31. Integrating the Mass Media to Address Children's Rights

### The Soul City Institute for Health and Development Communication – South Africa

The Soul City Institute for Health and Development Communication, an NGO based in South Africa, designed and implemented the *Soul Buddyz* series, a targeted program for children ages 8-12 years and their caregivers that addresses children's rights and health issues relevant to children. This innovative project utilizes the “edutainment” methodology, integrating both health education and social issues into programming. Capitalizing upon the highly developed mass media infrastructure in the country, the *Soul Buddyz* series includes a mix of television, radio, and print components for complementary reinforcement.

By integrating educational issues into entertainment, the “edutainment” model is able to reach large, diverse audiences. Initial ratings showed that *Soul Buddyz* was reaching over 2 million viewers each broadcast. The television component consists of 26 half-hour segments that follow the “Soul Buddyz,” child characters, as they address challenging issues faced in everyday life. At the culmination of each episode, real children are filmed offering their comments on the issues raised. With an additional 26 segments, the radio component incorporates drama with child protagonists, informational segments for adults and children, and a phone-in talk show with both young presenters and experts.

The *Soul Buddyz* project reflects the duties and goals outlined in the South African Constitution, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, by broadcasting children's own identities and life experiences.

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Source:

<http://www.soulcity.org.za/projects/soul-buddyz>

## 32. Protecting Children from Falling into Delinquency through Cultural Studies and the Arts

### Luz del Mundo – Bolivia

Luz del Mundo is a home /childcare center in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where local children can learn about art, theater, and music, in addition to English. Santa Cruz has no cultural center so Luz del Mundo provides children of disadvantaged families living in challenging conditions an opportunity to escape everyday life with extracurricular activities. Luz del Mundo even provides participating youth with learning materials, birthday and Christmas presents, and haircuts. Meals are also provided for at Luz del Mundo, affording some children their only complete meal for the day.

Through theater and song, Luz del Mundo builds the self-esteem of the most marginalized young people in Bolivia. By using such translatable media, Luz del Mundo is able to engage other schools and sectors of Bolivian culture. Most instructors are volunteers, hosted by Luz del Mundo, but arriving of their own volition. Other artisans in the community participate in Luz del Mundo as language, arts, computation, and manual work teachers.

The program runs four days a week, four hours per day, and specifically caters to children living in extreme poverty. In addition to the educational aspect of the program, staff fosters a culture of encouragement and support for the children in an effort to dissuade them from making dangerous and damaging life choices. Hoping to serve as a model program, Luz del Mundo connects with other poor areas of the city in hopes of implementing similar projects and learning opportunities for other children.

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*Source:*

[www.volunteersouthamerica.net/LuzDelMundo/ldm\\_index.htm](http://www.volunteersouthamerica.net/LuzDelMundo/ldm_index.htm)

## **33. Addressing Trafficking by Developing Open Source Computer Technology to Better Coordinate Investigation Efforts and Monitor Trafficking Patterns**

### **Freedom Connect – United States**

Freedom Connect utilizes innovative information and computer technologies (ICTs) for development (ICT4D) to connect survivors and local non-governmental organizations against exploitation, slavery, and trafficking. By leveraging the power of information and the strategic network of anti-trafficking champions, Freedom Connect is able to empower survivors and stakeholders to advocate for justice and crime prevention and enhance the capacity to effectively respond to modern-day slavery and human trafficking. Freedom Connect develops innovative products along with other ICT4D programs and software that meaningfully contribute to cooperative approaches of existing anti-trafficking movements. Freedom Connect uses this software to assist other groups to advocate for protection and prevention and to monitor and analyze prosecution efforts.

Through an array of programs, Freedom Connect offers truly pioneering approaches to connect organizations not only with each other, but also with the public at large. Assistance with a technology strategy is available from program inception. Freedom Connect can help organizations amplify their survivors' stories using digital and social media platforms to broaden the reach of efforts and initiatives. From the very foundation, Freedom Connect can help any organization or interested party launch an anti-trafficking campaign. Through strategic selection of needed tools, identifying deliverables, and preparing consistent documentation for evaluation, Freedom Connect seeks to include all parties in a broad network of champions against trafficking.

For example, the “Ayiti SMS Sekou SOS” program in Haiti monitors and combats violence against women and children using mobile phones, a central computer, and customized communication software. Using these tools, Survivors Connect in partnership with local Haitian organizations operates a text/SMS based helpline service that connects vulnerable communities to a resource to report violence and receive crisis support.

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*Source:*

<http://www.freedom-connect.com>

[www.ayitismssos.org](http://www.ayitismssos.org)

[www.smssekou.org](http://www.smssekou.org)

## **34. Providing Programs to Support Child Abuse Victims, Foster Peer Support, and Protect Children with Disabilities**

### **Be-Free – Bahrain**

Be-Free Bahrain is an innovative organization that seeks to assist and restore victims of child abuse and neglect. Be-Free provides counseling, classes, and training sessions to educate and assist the community with issues related to child abuse. Utilizing the latest sciences and techniques, Be-Free provides parents and caregivers with the tools to support and strengthen the emotional capacity of children affected by abuse and empowers victims to rebuild self-confidence and trust.

The “I am a Strong, Smart and Safe Child” Program is an innovative project that explores children’s vulnerability to various forms of neglect and abuse including physical, emotional, or sexual. This program also helps participants understand the severe consequences of different forms of abuse. Negligence, physical abuse, and emotional abuse by family members elicit different responses than do the types of abuse that may be inflicted by distant relatives or strangers.

Be-Free provides services for specific groups of vulnerable children, including children with disabilities. “I am a Strong, Smart and Safe Child in spite of my Disability” is a program designed for children and teens with disabilities that provides them with tools to assist in the challenges they may face regarding sexual or other types of abuse.

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*Source:*

<http://www.befreepro.org/en/>

## **35. Fighting Child Trafficking through Case Tracking, Protective Services, and Information Dissemination Campaigns**

### **Visayan Forum Foundation – Philippines**

Visayan Forum Foundation, a Philippine-based NGO, serves at the frontline of the war against human trafficking. By developing partnerships with government and civil society stakeholders, the Visayan Forum builds anti-trafficking task forces to innovate sustainable solutions to end forms of modern-day slavery. Task Forces are strategically composed to include law enforcement agents, social workers, prosecutors, and transportation service providers to incorporate key transit areas such as ports, airports, and bus terminals in the fight against human trafficking. Partnerships with local attorneys, law enforcement officials, and judges ensure that the justice system is also active in anti-trafficking efforts and that victims have access to justice.

The Visayan Forum's Center of Hope offers comprehensive psychological and social services to victims of sex and of labor trafficking. Through an innovative empowerment scheme, Visayan Forum has partnered with local entrepreneurs to explore economic opportunities for survivors within their communities. Survivors, their families, and their communities are organized into self-help groups to enhance their own capacity for recovery.

Visayan Forum encourages broad-based participation in the effort against trafficking. As such, social movements are rallied to address the root causes of vulnerability and the trends or patterns that provide insight into the causes of modern-day slavery. The Multi-Sectoral Network Against Trafficking synergizes the efforts of academic institutions, corporations, media, NGOs, and religious organizations devoted to combat human trafficking.

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*Source:*

[www.visayanforum.org](http://www.visayanforum.org)

## 36. Empowering Child Victims of Trafficking and Slavery through Education and Job Training

### Made by Survivors – United States/India

Made by Survivors (MBS) is an international nonprofit organization that employs and educates victims of human trafficking and other human rights abuses. Through job creation in respected sectors, Made by Survivors enables victims to become survivors, rebuilding their self-esteem and breaking cycles of gender inequality through metalsmithing and jewelry design. 100% of profits go to rescue support, education, and employment opportunities for survivors.

Since its founding in 2005, MBS has trained and employed 350 survivor artisans. In India, working with gold was typically a profession reserved exclusively for men. However, by addressing root causes of vulnerability to exploitation, which include gender inequalities in the work place, Made by Survivors is breaking gender barriers and has trained 70 survivors as artisan goldsmiths.

Beyond employment, survivors are offered education, healthcare, and special programs specifically for children and families of trafficking victims. Children who are born into slavery, or born to parents who are enslaved, face a high-risk of becoming trafficking victims or living an enslaved life themselves. Through the Education Fund, over 250 child victims have been sent to school, providing them the tools to transform their lives and break the chains of poverty. Social stigma and trauma often prevent these child victims from remaining in school for the long-term, and thus, MBS provides an invaluable service to the community it serves.

The beautiful fair trade jewelry items, handbags and gifts, all made by survivors of slavery at shelters around the world, offers them sustainable income, dignity, and a bright future free of slavery.

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*Source:*

[www.madebysurvivors.com](http://www.madebysurvivors.com)

## 37. Mobilizing Community Action and Advocacy through Street Theater

### Banglanatak – India

Recognizing the vulnerability of women and children from poor and marginalized communities in India, Banglanatak uses theater to build awareness on children's rights and children's health. Through a theater-based approach, Banglanatak mobilizes community-led action to combat inequality in health care, lack of access to justice, and violence against women and children. Children are empowered through their participation in theater. Efforts concentrate on working with rural and urban children. Theater creates a forum where children can voice their concerns and demands, in line with the rights provided for in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Theater helps young people and their communities overcome inhibitions by providing a platform for open discussion of sensitive issues like sexual violence and human trafficking. Through theater, Banglanatak highlights the causes of sex tourism and trafficking and mobilizes communities to be active agents in protecting women and children from abuse.

Street-theater also builds awareness on the consequences of trafficking and the tricks and trends used by traffickers to proliferate exploitation. By strengthening community networks through the inclusion of village women and youth, grassroots health workers, and local government officials in theater productions, targeted groups are sensitized to the issues while building involved actors' communication, advocacy, and leadership skills.

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*Source:*

[www.banglanatak.com](http://www.banglanatak.com)

## 38. Providing Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services

### Israel Association for Child Protection – Israel

The Israel Association for Child Protection (ELI) is the only organization in Israel recognized by national human service agencies and the Government of Israel to specifically and exclusively deal with child abuse in the country. Through training professionals in relevant fields, lobbying policy decision makers, and sharing important information with at-risk children or vulnerable family units, ELI is able to raise awareness of and enhance protection from child abuse. ELI's strength as a single point of entry allows families to receive therapy, counseling, shelter, and other vital support services in one location. By coordinating services, ELI's efforts assist complimentary welfare agencies in serving abused or neglected children and struggling family units.

ELI serves the Israeli people through a variety of services including a hotline, active and toll-free from anywhere in Israel and available in Hebrew, Russian, and Arabic. A clinical department works to provide treatment to abused victims and their families, while a legal department is available to provide legal aid and representation. An emergency shelter offers immediate protection to abused children and other at-risk groups, including immigrants, minorities, and closed communities. ELI advocates on behalf of victims through lobbying, working with the government to influence policy, and using its training division, which designs and distributes child abuse prevention materials to professionals in education, social work, law, and public health, among others.

## 39. Creating and Promoting Well-Being and Fostering Children’s Participation in Society

### Union of Societies “Our Children” – Croatia

The Union of Societies “Our Children” is a network of over 100 local Croatian societies, volunteers, and professional associations active in different towns and districts across Croatia dedicated to the promotion and implementation of children’s rights. The Union operates on the national level to create, promote, and initiate activities for children to pursue during their leisure and assists and supports parents in raising their children.

All programming designed by the Union of Societies “Our Children” is based on the wishes, interests, and needs of children represented in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and involves children from birth through the culmination of their elementary school education. The Union assisted in designing various components of the Croatian National Plan of Activities for the Rights and Interests of Children, some of which include implementing children’s forums, a children’s council, and child friendly towns, districts, and hospitals.

The Union also provides programs on culture and art, including the creation of children’s books which are showcased at the Festival of Children’s Creations in Societies “Our Children.” Other initiatives in the field of education include raising awareness and knowledge of preventative health and social services that contribute to healthy child development. Children’s Week and Messages of Children for Adults are innovative campaigns which promote children’s needs and underscore their important participation within Croatian society.

## **40. Seeking to Eliminate Violence against Girls by Providing Counseling, Shelter, and Community Support**

### **RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women) – Bhutan**

RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women), is an NGO dedicated to empowering disadvantaged women and adolescent girls in Bhutan. RENEW provides services to victims of domestic violence, women and girls who are victims of rape or sexual abuse, commercial sex workers, and women and girls who are victims of drug abuse or are HIV-positive and assists them to reintegrate back into their communities.

Recognizing that gender-based violence prevents gender equality in the region, RENEW is committed to combating violence against women, offering counseling, temporary shelter, legal assistance, and need-based provision of vocational skills to help transform the lives of victims. RENEW Shelter Home operates 24-hours a day, providing victims of family violence and their children an anonymous safe house where they can find emergency and immediate protection from abusers. In the Shelter Home, RENEW provides food and lodging, emergency medical care, crisis intervention, and confidential counseling.

RENEW's Community Based Support System is an integral component of its long-term approach towards community ownership of services for victims, especially counseling services. This method involves the community, thereby increasing issue awareness and local involvement in victim recovery.

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*Source:*

[www.renewbhutan.org](http://www.renewbhutan.org)

# 41. Raising Awareness about Child Abuse and Family Violence through Training and Education

## Australia Childhood Foundation – Australia

The Australia Childhood Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that works to support children and families devastated by abuse, family violence, and neglect. Through a variety of programs including education and training, advocacy, specialist trauma counseling, and assisting foster parents, the Australian Childhood Foundation actively engages communities in activities which bolster support for an abuse-free environment.

Education and trainings on trauma, child abuse, and family violence are offered for health, legal, welfare, and education professionals. Australia Childhood Foundation also runs community education programs to raise awareness about root causes, trends, and consequences of child abuse and supplies strategies and resources for those who are concerned about a child or a parent.

The Australia Childhood Foundation trains specialist trauma counselors to help children recover from the trauma of abuse, neglect, and family violence. Counselors, utilizing a carefully crafted treatment plan can help children manage hurtful memories and create an environment that aids in their recovery.

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*Source:*

<http://www.childhood.org.au/home/>

## **42. Researching, Reporting, and Advocating on Behalf of Romani Children Facing Child Marriage, Trafficking, and Other Forms of Abuse**

### **European Roma Rights Centre – Hungary**

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) is an international public interest law organization working to combat anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma through strategic litigation, research and policy development, advocacy and human rights education. Since its establishment in 1996, the ERRC has endeavored to provide Roma with the tools necessary to combat discrimination and achieve equal access to justice, education, housing, healthcare and public services. The ERRC conducts research, develops reports, and advocates on behalf of Romani children in the following areas:

- Child marriages in Roma community;
- Desegregation of Czech schools;
- Assessment of Romani children represented in State institutional care and their chances for family reunification or alternative family placement;
- Child trafficking of Romani children; and
- Child protection.

## **43. Advocating for Policy Change and Political Commitment on Issues Impacting Early Childhood Development**

### **Every Child Counts – New Zealand**

Every Child Counts (ECC) advocates for children with the message that the welfare of youth should be at the center of national public policy and planning initiatives. ECC focuses predominantly on the first 1,000 days of life, which is a segment crucial to a child's long-term development. As such, efforts include public awareness campaigns to reduce maltreatment, child abuse, and neglect and to increase the status of children and the role of families in child-rearing.

From the onset, ECC published an independent report that investigated the effectiveness of contemporary public investment in the children of New Zealand. Reaching out to government officials and other civil society partners, including members of the media, ECC was able to establish the significance of the findings of the report and promote a dialogue on adequate child protection.

ECC advocates for children in the New Zealand government, encouraging local and national politicians to incorporate children and youth into the political process. To persuade members of parliament to actively protect children in politics, ECC prepared a Child Impact Assessments Briefing Sheet and issued one to each member of parliament. The document offers an assessment mechanism for outlining the impact of new legislation on children, thereby preventing unforeseen consequences. In this way, ECC attempts to increase the visibility of children in the public policy dialogue.

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*Source:*

[www.everychildcounts.org.nz](http://www.everychildcounts.org.nz)

## 44. Supporting Child Development by Encouraging Community Participation

### Afrika Tikkun – South Africa

Afrika Tikkun offers essential programming for children to educate, support, and nurture youth and their families throughout South Africa. The organization seeks to empower the next generation of South Africans through their model of inter-connected core services. Through its Centres of Excellence and strategic local partnerships, Afrika Tikkun invests in child development and encourages active township participation in the success of its youngest generation.

Afrika Tikkun has six Centres of Excellence; each Centre, while connected in mission, offers a different dimension to human development. Some Centres offer Child and Youth Care Programmes, while others offer Primary Health Care and Nutrition Services. Named for Afrika Tikkun's Patron-in-Chief, the Nelson Mandela Peace Park is home to both a business/computer center and a food garden, part of which provides daily meals for community members.

The community garden and park also provides meals for the children who utilize the facilities which include vegetable gardens, computer rooms, and safe play areas, monitored and staffed by community volunteers. The programming at the Centres focuses on early childhood development, child and youth development, and family support services. In this way, networks are strengthened to create community and familial support systems that encourage child development, bolster the family unit, and ultimately positively impact the progress of South African youth. The services provided are intended to help strengthen families and develop children “from cradle to career.”

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*Source:*

<http://www.afrikatikkun.org>

## 45. Providing Programs to Promote Child Rights and Child Protection

### **African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect – Africa**

Founded in 1986, the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) is a pan-African network that addresses child rights and child protection through a variety of social programs and advocacy, legal reform initiatives, public health efforts, and partnership building. Notably, ANPPCAN was active in the design of and advocacy for the adoption of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

With 26 chapter offices across the continent, the ANPPCAN is able to serve the needs of children relevant to various issues regarding child labor, child neglect and child protection. Under the umbrella of child protection, ANPPCAN administers the following programs:

- **Child Labor:** Based in Kenya, this program aims to develop appropriate models for combating child labor. It currently targets 14 districts and works with local partners to activate community involvement in the prevention of child labor and extracting children from unsafe or inappropriate work.
- **Child Participation:** ANPPCAN recognizes that children themselves can be engaged agents of their own rights. As such, this program enhances the capacity of young people to advocate for the protection of the rights of children.
- **Promoting the Right of the Child to be Protected from Violence:** This program involves all vested stakeholders in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and Somalia and works to enhance their knowledge and agency to mitigate the rate of violence against children and child trafficking. Operational capacity is enhanced to enable broader advocacy efforts and stronger implementation of relevant legal statutes.

## 46. Educating the Public about Child Sexual Abuse through Mass Media and Social Marketing Campaigns

### Stop It Now! – United States

Just one facet of its many efforts, Stop It Now! utilizes new technologies and the online space to educate the public about child sexual abuse. Piloted in Vermont, Stop It Now! works with the media and local NGOs to bridge public health concepts with child sexual abuse prevention campaigns. This broad based coalition allows for wide dissemination of information, reaching adults and children in high-risk or vulnerable situations.

Stop It Now! expanded its operations to Stop It Now! Philadelphia in 2000 and launched a large-scale media campaign using mixed mediums that included billboards, posters, and signs. Initially efforts were concentrated in three neighborhoods in which Stop It Now! Philadelphia had partners in local community groups. In 2006, the campaign broadened to include all of Philadelphia and the capacity of existing partnerships was refocused to initiate training and community education programming with a variety of audiences. Stop It Now! Philadelphia pursued a child's play thematic mass media campaign with, for example, billboards that included the text: "When Hide & Seek is about fear and abuse, it's no game." The award-winning campaign also included television, radio, billboards, and transit posters.

Stop It Now! recently launched an online advice column, "Ask Now!" which is free and confidential and accessible to the public. For those who are uncomfortable contacting a helpline, users can privately seek assistance in the responses to other people's questions in an advice column format that guides people who have concerns about child sexual abuse.

## 47. Educating Parents and Caregivers about Child Protection through a Research-Based Program

### University of Queensland – Australia

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program is a multi-level family and parenting support paradigm currently being used in 25 countries. This unique program has been developed by the University of Queensland and aims to prevent emotional and behavioral problems in children by assisting parents in cultivating the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance parental confidence. Triple P employs a multi-disciplinary approach, aggregating developmental, cognitive-behavioral, and social learning theories to assess the root causes of child behavioral disenfranchisement and protective factors that often correlate with social problems in children.

In focusing on prevention, the program is extremely cost-effective while also allowing parents flexibility in deciding which aspects of the program suit their particular needs. Triple P's 5-level system allows parents to have complete ownership over their learning strategy and to tailor their course of action to meet their objectives.

The program is also used as an abuse prevention plan, significantly reducing parents' use of corporal punishment. The Pathways Triple P program is a specialized design of the Triple P original that targets parents or guardians who may be at risk of abusing their children and aims to teach them anger management skills and other stress relieving techniques.

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*Source:*

<http://www19.triplep.net/?pid=49>

<http://www.triplep-parenting.net/glo-en/home>

## **48. Providing Individual Nurturing for Babies, Innovative Programs for Children, and Permanent Foster Homes for Children with Special Needs**

### **Half the Sky Foundation – China**

In order to enrich the lives of orphaned children in China, Half the Sky (HTS) provides model programs and caregiver trainings designed to offer loving, family-like care to children of all ages and abilities. Half the Sky's approach is adapted to each developmental stage, utilizing a responsive, child-centered strategy focused on nurturing the child and enhancing child development through Chinese education that involves arts, sciences, language, social development, and health. Half the Sky has helped to establish 51 child centers across 24 provinces of China.

In 2011, HTS launched The Rainbow Program, aiming to reach every orphaned child by training caregivers nationwide. Training sessions were organized in six different provinces of China for a five year period. The training program includes introductory sessions focusing on child development theory and is complimented by subsequent in-depth workshops that are led by HTS's Child Development Experts who teach practical skills.

In an effort to transform institutional care with the support of senior leadership, the Rainbow Program holds two annual national Directors' Workshops. Orphanage administrators learn to assume full responsibility for any new or existing Half the Sky-inspired programs.

## 49. Relieving Distress and Sickness in Abandoned and Orphaned Children through Adoption Programs and Training Initiatives

### Care for Children – China

Care for Children (CFC), a China-based non-governmental organization, is shaped by the conviction that the long-term benefit to children living in a family of their own is of primary concern. As an alternative to institutional care, Care for Children strategically places abandoned or orphaned children in Asia into local families at the request of, and in cooperation with, the Chinese government.

By working in partnership with national government authorities, Care for Children is better able to identify grassroots family care initiatives in local communities and sustainably train partners to establish best practices. The project operates on a broad scale, with the goal of assisting millions of children who are in need of good homes and loving family units.

Care for Children hosts an in-house training team that includes experienced social work and child development specialists from China, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Africa. Trainers work with local and national officials of all relevant sectors to highlight the importance of family placement care that must not only be in the best interest of the child, but also align with international standards. Trainers are equipped with a long-term commitment and an acute knowledge of the local culture, and are tasked with facilitating sustainable partnerships with stakeholders at all levels. By supporting local communities with nationally supported programs which reflect international standards, Care for Child advances sustainable family placement care in Asia.

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*Source:*

[www.careforchildren.com](http://www.careforchildren.com)

## 50. Creating Sustainable Projects to Provide Orphans with Nutrition, Clean Water, and Farming Skills

### Advocates for Africa's Children – Africa

Advocates for Africa's Children (AAC) works to protect and promote children's rights, especially the rights of vulnerable and orphaned children. Through sustainable agricultural projects, Advocates for Africa's Children is able to provide food and school fees for orphaned children. Orphaned children and their caregivers are trained in agricultural skills and assist in creating irrigation systems and fences to increase the productivity of existing farming ventures.

In cooperation with agribusiness partners, AAC has helped some caregivers to live in a cooperative and run their own poultry business. Assisting with food and lodging through a self-sustaining model increases the productivity of the organization and the confidence of the caregivers who are, in turn, better equipped to support the children. In one community, AAC has constructed a preschool and a free clinic. Advocates for Africa's Children also built a church in the community, which houses a hammer mill, capable of grinding corn into meal that the church then uses to feed the community.

When AAC introduced a clear-water well to the village of Mgambeni, Swaziland, the health of the community rapidly improved. After the drilling for the well was complete, the church started a training garden where children learn how to grow vegetables. This project allows students, upon demonstrating an understanding of the agricultural process to go home and start their own gardens with assistance from AAC. The training garden has grown into a community farm that now feeds many orphaned and vulnerable children and helps send them to school.

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Source:

<http://www.afachildren.org>

# **Part IV.**

## **Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation**

# 51. Providing Psychological and Emotional Support for Women and Children Victims of Violence and Sexual Abuse

## Rozan – Pakistan

Rozan's oldest program, Aangan, began in 1994 as the first initiative of its kind to initiate debate on the issue of child sexual abuse in Pakistan. Aangan focuses on the emotional health of children and young people, with special consideration for child sexual abuse. Given the taboo nature of the topic, the issue is addressed within a more holistic framework, utilizing a broader emotional health dialogue. Aangan serves as a resource center and raises awareness on child sexual abuse at schools, hospitals, and in tandem with other NGOs working on relevant subjects.

Aangan raises consciousness on child sexual abuse, child body protection, and the emotional health of youth while teaching important life skills at trainings and seminars with other stakeholders in the community. Advocacy is also a facet of Aangan's work, most recently through a public awareness campaign, "Stop Child Sexual Abuse," that included over 5,000 participants.

Aangan identifies local partners with whom it teaches life skills education. These skills courses are conducted at schools representing a range of socio-economic backgrounds, facilitating the emotional development of young students by including such topics as feelings, anger management, self-esteem and self-acceptance, gender-equality, body protection, and communication skills.

Aangan actively enhances the capacity of interested stakeholders on issues related to child sexual abuse through the establishment of Child Protection Committees, which involve community members who voluntarily conduct awareness-raising initiatives within their respective communities.

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*Source:*

[www.rozan.org/aangan.php](http://www.rozan.org/aangan.php)

## 52. Providing Shelter, Rehabilitation, and Counseling Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims

### **The Somaly Mam Foundation & Acting for Women in Distressing Situations – Cambodia**

The Somaly Mam Foundation, an NGO based in Cambodia, was founded in response to alarming trends and reports on human trafficking in the country, a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking in persons. Acting for Women in Distressing Situations (AFESIP) Cambodia's legal and information gathering team assists local and national authorities in identifying cases of human trafficking and exploitation. Through a partnership consisting of law enforcement officials, relevant legal organizations, courts, and judges, The Somaly Mam Foundation and AFESIP are able to rescue victims and help prosecute traffickers.

AFESIP's operational approach consists of several components including:

**Outreach:** The AFESIP Peer Education team, as part of its educational outreach program, trains social workers and works with women and girls in the sex industry, to educate them on public health risks, including HIV/AIDS, and to inform them on AFESIP's services. Peer Educators are often former sex workers who were recruited and trained by AFESIP social workers and often help compile reports for AFESIP's legal and information gathering team.

**Rescue & Recovery:** AFESIP runs numerous rehabilitation homes and shelters for girls and women survivors of trafficking in Cambodia. Survivors are provided with food, clothing, and school supplies if they are of school age and attending public school. Sewing, weaving, and other courses are offered to engage them in recreational activities that also serve as skills training.

**Counseling:** AFESIP administers several rehabilitation homes and centers, each staffed with a psychologist. AFESIP Cambodia also has a trauma care specialist. Other types of healing activities offered in AFESIP centers include yoga, traditional dance, meditation, and art therapy.

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*Sources:*

<http://www.somaly.org>

<http://www.afesip.org>

## 53. Building Capacity of Child Survivors to Lead the Fight against Child Sexual Exploitation

### Youth Partnership Project – South Asia

The Youth Partnership Project (YPP) for child survivors of commercial sexual exploitation in South Asia empowers youth survivors to take agency in their own fight against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Youth Partnership Project trains youth in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal and assists in organizing peer support programs in schools located in high risk areas. By encouraging youth to support and educate other youth, young people are able to rebuild trust in themselves and their peers through the sharing of information, support provision, and victim advocacy.

YPP trains youth in media advocacy and awareness-raising techniques including campaigning in an effort to reach out to local communities and reduce the numbers of trafficked children. The Youth Partnership Project has adopted a set of guiding principles that reflect the 1998 UNICEF Principles of Psychosocial Interventions for Children. These principles include, but are not limited to:

- Developing the skills of children and young people, with a special emphasis on survivors of commercial sexual exploitation to offer peer support;
- Developing lobbying and advocacy skills among young people to enable them to influence local and national policy;
- Training caregivers in the skills necessary to counsel young people affected by commercial sexual exploitation;
- Developing public awareness campaigns to disseminate information about the dangers of child commercial sexual exploitation, HIV/AIDS prevention, and the rights of children; and
- Lobbying for the improvement of law enforcement mechanisms related to child commercial sexual exploitation.

## 54. Enlisting Tourism Industry Actors in Adopting Policies to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation

### ECPAT International – Global

ECPAT International was founded in Thailand in 1990 in response to an increasing practice of child prostitution in Asia. ECPAT is a global network of more than 80 organizations and individuals in more than 70 countries striving to eliminate child prostitution, child pornography, and sex trafficking of children.

The *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (The Code)* is an industry-driven, multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to provide awareness, tools, and support to the tourism sector to combat child sexual exploitation in the context of travel and tourism.

Suppliers of tourism services adopting The Code commit to do the following:

1. Establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children;
2. Train personnel on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation, and how to report suspected cases;
3. Include a clause in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation and zero tolerance policy of commercial sexual exploitation of children;
4. Provide information to travelers on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation, and how to report suspected cases;
5. Support and engage stakeholders in the prevention of child sexual exploitation; and
6. Report annually on the implementation of Code related activities.

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Source:

<http://www.ecpat.net>

<http://www.thecode.org/>

## 55. Enabling At-Risk and Victimized Girls to Live Independently

### Cambodian Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights – Cambodia

The Cambodian Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights (CCPCR) protects at-risk or children vulnerable to neglect, abuse, and exploitation by building and running shelters, providing recovery and rehabilitation programs, and designing preventative measures through education and issue-awareness efforts within Cambodian society. To respond to current challenges, CCPCR offers prevention programs and community education including the Village Safety Net Program, Child Labor Prevention Program, Primary and Community Education, and a Health Care Program.

In July 2011, CCPCR in partnership with Senhoa, opened the Lotus House in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Lotus House is a transition home for up to 15 women, providing them with safe and secure subsidized accommodations. The facility focuses on two specific target beneficiaries:

- Young women who are vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking; and
- Women who have completed a shelter program and are in transition from living in a shelter to full reintegration back into society.

Lotus House focuses on helping girls become independent and enabling them to prepare for life outside of a shelter or brothel. The girls must find employment in order to live in the house and must contribute a small amount to the running of the house each month. Through this innovative approach, women learn the skills necessary for independent, healthy living and receive the educational and situational building blocks necessary to lay the foundation for a safe, secure life.

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*Source:*

<http://www.ccpcr.org.kh/activity/detail.php?activity=14>

<http://www.senhoafoundation.org/>

## 56. Training Hotel Employees to Recognize Indicators of Child Sex Tourism

### STELLIT – Russia

STELLIT is an NGO based in Saint-Petersburg, Russia working to assist both adults and children victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Since 2007, STELLIT continues to advocate for the training of hotel/hospitality employees on the hotel compliance guidelines which protect the interests of children in hotels. In partnership with Saint-Petersburg hotels, community centers, and the Hotel Novotel Moscow Sheremetyevo Airport, STELLIT organizes and coordinates the application of the Code of Conduct developed by ECPAT International, UNICEF, and the World Tourism Organization for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

Within this multilateral partnership, STELLIT provides trainings for employees on ethical policies regarding the prevention and detection of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sex tourism. In addition, STELLIT designs informative materials, provided to customers and travelers on the risks and realities of child sex tourism and the sexual exploitation of children.

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*Source:*

<http://www.ngostellit.ru/index.php>

## **57. Mobilizing the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation Enabled by Information and Communications Technology**

### **Child Protection Partnership – Canada**

Utilizing an innovative approach that capitalizes on technological advances, the Child Protection Partnership (CPP) is a multi-sector collaborative effort based in Canada that aims to protect children from sexual exploitation. Working with stakeholders in the government, non-governmental organizations, private sector corporations, and grassroots associations, the goal of CPP is to mitigate, if not eliminate, child sexual exploitation enabled by information and communication technology.

With a focus on Brazil and Thailand, CPP has three targeted areas of work:

1. Assist law enforcement, government, and relevant institutions and organizations to better combat child sexual exploitation enabled by advances and nuances in information and communication technology;
2. Identify service providers and safe shelters to which vulnerable children or at-risk children may be referred; and
3. Design, develop, and adopt a coordinated framework approach so that stakeholders from all facets of civil society and government can work in closer partnership, leveraging resources and best practices.

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*Source:*

[www.childprotectionpartnership.org](http://www.childprotectionpartnership.org)

## 58. Educating Children about Sexual Abuse through Child-Friendly Trainings

### Child Abuse Prevention Program – United States

The Child Safety Workshop, an innovative initiative of The Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP), utilizes life-sized *Kids on the Block* puppets to educate eight and nine year old children about physical and sexual abuse. The award-winning Child Safety Workshop provides third graders with the tools to decipher between safe and unsafe touch.

The workshop offered by CAPP includes two prevention specialists who perform skits that allow the puppets to tell stories of physical and sexual abuse. This messaging strategy is effective in affording children a secure environment to process their own experiences or real-life situations and mitigates any pressure or intimidation they may feel when talking to adults.

Guidance counselors are also present during the workshop. Following the puppet skits, students who feel comfortable with and ready to share their stories have an opportunity to do so. Counselors are also trained on proper interview techniques and, when approached, are prepared to gather information and file reports.

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Source:

[www.cappnyc.org/programs\\_childsafety.html](http://www.cappnyc.org/programs_childsafety.html)

## 59. Highlighting the Work to Rescue and Restore Survivors of Underage Sex Trafficking through Documentary Film

### Horse and Rider: A Journey Towards Freedom – India

In response to the alarming trend of children trafficked for sexual exploitation, filmmaker Ben Stamper, in association with Freedom Firm, directed *Horse and Rider: A Journey Towards Freedom*. This eye-opening and moving documentary introduces viewers to two survivors of sex trafficking who have connected in an aftercare program run in southern India.

*Horse & Rider: A Journey Towards Freedom* is a non-conventional film that explores the sexual exploitation of minors. Shot on location in India in 2011, this cinematic journey offers first-hand accounts from victims and their families on the dangers and realities of child sexual exploitation. Although emotionally intense, *Horse & Rider: A Journey Towards Freedom* is both captivating and sobering, ultimately reminding viewers of the perseverance of the human spirit and the ongoing struggle to protect the human condition.

The documentary film highlights the work of Freedom Firm, a non-profit organization in India, focused on rescuing, restoring and providing justice to victims of sex trafficking. Freedom Firm deploys a team of undercover investigators to follow leads and monitor red light areas in two states in Central India. The investigators identify minor victims and brothel keepers, pimps, and traffickers, document the crime and submit the information to police. Once the girls are rescued, Freedom Firm provides a Regional Aftercare Program with a specialized team of social workers to provide counseling, medical care, education and training programs. Freedom Firm lawyers monitor the case of each girl and fight to create systemic change in the legal system of India.

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*Sources:*

<http://www.horseandriderfilm.com>

<http://www.freedom.firm.in/>

## 60. Providing a Brighter Future for Sex Trafficked and Sexually Exploited Adolescent Female Survivors

### StreetLightUSA – United States

The mission of StreetLightUSA can be described in three words: Stop Child Rape. Utilizing a three-tiered strategy to demonstrate excellence in treatment and advocacy, StreetLightUSA focuses on awareness, prevention, and direct care to develop a national model to serve as a paradigm for policy makers and invested stakeholders in eliminating child rape. Cultivating a multi-sectoral response team that includes government, key non-profit organizations, and interested academics, StreetLightUSA designs innovative policies and projects that can help eradicate this human rights injustice.

StreetLightUSA strives to raise awareness amongst a broad demographic on the realities of commercial child sex trafficking and child rape. It created the documentary film “Branded” to achieve this purpose, allowing StreetLightUSA to reach thousands of people through education, social media, and public events.

Prevention involves a holistic approach, bridging StreetLightUSA with state legislators to engage in legislative reform and the drafting of human rights legislation. Recent successes have included increasing the penalties for those soliciting sex with a child in the state of Arizona.

Located in Phoenix, Arizona, StreetLightUSA’s Direct Care facility houses up to 48 female victims of child sex trafficking. The facility provides victims with a safe and healthy place to begin healing and rebuilding.

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*Source:*

<http://www.streetlightusa.org>

# 61. Educating Children about Sexual Health

## Child Family Health International – Ecuador

Child Family Health International's (CFHI) Sexual Health as a Human Right program was designed to implement the Ecuadorian laws which guarantee citizens reproductive health care. The landmark Free Maternity Law of 1998 promises free maternal health care to pregnant women and their newborns and access to family planning for women of reproductive age. Thus, the government is engaging local nonprofits to advance sexual and reproductive health education.

Local schools are encouraged to become involved and provide knowledge to its students on sexual health and reproduction through workshops. The program accomplishes its goals of educating children about sexual health through working with students in high schools and organizing a community education program. The program focuses on educating children and the community about sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, and pregnancy prevention.

CFHI supports organizations like Copprende, a Quito-based nonprofit with a focus on preventing unwanted pregnancy through education, lectures, workshops, conferences and health fairs. With the help of CFHI, Copprende participants learn educational and outreach strategies designed to educate populations of different ages, demographics, and socio-economic statuses on sexual and reproductive health issues. Those who train in a Copprende workshop will learn about project management and develop a skill set on teaching sexual education. Copprende produces its own material for activities and presentations, assists in field works, and teaches strategies on interpreting sexual health issues in a strict, socially conservative Catholic country.

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*Source:*

[www.cfhi.org/web/index.php/program/show/id/320](http://www.cfhi.org/web/index.php/program/show/id/320)

## 62. Working with Vulnerable Communities to Offer Services and Education Opportunities to At Risk Children

### ARZ – India

ARZ India is a social organization dedicated to combating trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Goa, India. ARZ follows a dual mandate to not only support victims of sexual abuse but also to actively work against perpetrators of the crime. Through effective social work intervention, ARZ believes it is possible to mitigate the prevalence of human trafficking and to limit abuse and exploitation of trafficking victims. ARZ is the designated NGO in the Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Unit set up by the Goa police for the purpose of providing witnesses, organizing rescue operations in tandem with police, counseling rescued victims, and networking with other relevant stakeholders. As such, the role of ARZ is clearly defined in combating trafficking in Goa in partnership with the criminal justice system.

ARZ has adopted a holistic approach to economic rehabilitation and empowerment. The Economic Rehabilitation Programme, initiated in 2005, enhances the capacity of trafficking victims to be their own agents of sustainable positive change. Working with victims to identify possible business trades, ARZ opened the doors of Swift Wash, a fully mechanized laundry unit which provides employment for sexual exploitation survivors. Currently, Swift Wash employs 35 women and girls and 15 boys, and is exploring expansion opportunities. To facilitate the possibility of expanding the program, ARZ has been meeting with possible beneficiaries and their families to ensure all parties understand the value of this opportunity and the utility added not only to the rehabilitation of survivors but for the community at large.

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*Source:*

[www.arzindia.org](http://www.arzindia.org)

## 63. Educating and Empowering Youth to be Activists Fighting Trafficking in Their Region

### MTV Networks/MTV EXIT Foundation – Europe/Asia Pacific

The MTV End Exploitation and Trafficking (EXIT) Campaign is an innovative media campaign that strives to raise awareness and garner support for the prevention of human trafficking and exploitation. With global brand recognition and major celebrity, music, and film power, MTV is uniquely poised to launch major anti-trafficking campaigns with a high degree of visibility and accessibility. Through various online and real-time strategies, MTV EXIT has successfully reached and educated over 20 million people since its inception in 2004.

MTV EXIT tries to engage users in an ongoing dialogue about human trafficking utilizing a multimedia approach. Interested parties are encouraged to stay up-to-date via social media where people can both follow events and news, as well as repost and share MTV EXIT links and updates on personal Facebook, Twitter, or other social networking accounts.

Video programs are an integral component of the MTV EXIT campaign. Programs such as *Enslaved* and *Traffic* and music videos were created to educate, facilitate dialogue, and spur action. Those interested are supported in efforts to host screenings and disseminate information within their own networks and communities. Artists including designers, film makers, graphic artists, composers, and photographers are also essential in the MTV EXIT strategy, and are called upon to inspire others to join the fight against trafficking through showcasing their art online or in their communities.

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Source:

<http://www.mtvexit.org/join-the-fight/>

## **64. Monitoring and Evaluating Tourism Companies to Enhance Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation**

### **Fundación Paniamor – Costa Rica**

Fundación Paniamor is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Costa Rica working to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and, in particular, trafficking in children and child sex tourism in Costa Rica. Through awareness raising strategies, partnerships with law enforcement agencies, and managing a database containing information on trafficking, Fundación Paniamor is able to play a leading role in Costa Rica's anti-trafficking efforts.

The group has established a training program on the Code of Conduct developed by ECPAT for employees of tourism companies, hotels, car rental and taxi companies, tourism operators, ships, etc. Fundación Paniamor is creating a monitoring and evaluation strategy to enhance the implementation of the Code of Conduct and has produced and distributed materials in several languages as part of its “Responsible and sustainable tourism” campaign.

In partnership with many local stakeholders, the work of Fundación Paniamor has expanded to social development and violence prevention. The group has undertaken a media campaign in high-risk areas for trafficking for sexual purposes to raise awareness and to encourage prevention and reporting.

## 65. Providing Information and Assistance for Groups At Risk of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking

### Hope & Help – Armenia

Established in 1998, Hope & Help is an NGO founded by prominent Armenian physicians, psychologists, teachers, and sociologists. Through public awareness raising programs, training activities, and an active free hotline, Hope & Help works to promote the improvement and provision of sexual, reproductive, and mental health services to victims of trafficking.

Seeking to improve the condition of youth, women, orphans, homeless, and the physically disabled, Hope & Help works on both HIV/AIDS harm reduction and the prevention of human trafficking. In both cases, Hope & Help targets adolescents, at-risk youth, and high risk groups including marginalized or displaced women and female sex workers. The efforts of Hope & Help include voluntary repatriation and humanitarian reintegration of migrants and refugees.

Hope & Help runs an Information Center to provide resources and counseling on reproductive health, STDs, and HIV/AIDS issues. The Information Center, which also trains school teachers on sexual education, increases public health and personal risk awareness among the general population and high risk groups and facilitates social rehabilitation among female sex workers. Female sex workers can also find assistance in the established “Trust Center.” The “Trust Center” offers confidential medical counseling and psychological support. Staff members conduct outreach street activities and disseminate informational materials and condoms to sex workers.

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*Source:*

<http://www.hopehelp.am/index.html>

## 66. Providing a Helpline on Children's Issues and Special School Programs for At-Risk and Delinquent Youth

### Brave Phone – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Brave Phone is a non-profit organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina established to eradicate neglect and inappropriate actions towards children, prevent abuse, and offer assistance and direct support to abused youth and their families. Brave Phone aims to increase public awareness of child abuse, framing the issue as a social problem requiring the investment of all stakeholders to fully combat the issue.

Brave Phone provides free activities and services for free, including advice and psychosocial support, which is offered in confidence to all victims and interested parties to serve the best interests of the child or family.

The Advisory Line for Children is open for calls related to the protection of children from abuse and parenting assistance. Parents and professionals who work with children and/or families may also use the service to gain educational advice on forms of violence, signs of neglect, and typical parenting challenges that strain the family unit. The line is operated on a volunteer-basis by psychology, social work, or education students who then receive training from Brave Phone on telephone counseling skills and informing callers of available resources in local institutions such as police or medical personnel.

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*Source:*

[www.hrabritelefon.hr/o-nama/programi](http://www.hrabritelefon.hr/o-nama/programi)

## 67. Combating Child Molestation through Public Media Campaigns

### Action Pour Les Enfants – Cambodia

Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE) provides assistance and protection to at-risk children and families in South and South East Asia, with a focus in Cambodia. Their goal is the prevention of sexual abuse and protecting the well-being of children through preventive efforts and awareness-raising. APLE offers awareness education on child sexual abuse and human trafficking to enhance the capacity of community groups, NGOs, local authorities, and the public-at-large to respond to these issues. This gives participants the ability to understand the motives and trends of abusers and enables the community to prevent sexual abuse and report suspected incidents.

To counter the spread of child abuse in Cambodia, APLE launched an awareness-raising campaign called “Don’t Turn Your Back on Child Molestation.” Banners embossed with the slogan are equipped on dozens of tuk-tuks near tourist destinations throughout the country. Importantly, the banner also displays the number of APLE’s nation-wide 24-hour hotline. The newly instated hotline ensures that appropriate actions will be taken when reports are received on instances of sexual abuse, exploitation, or human trafficking.

In addition to the presence of the banners, APLE has trained tuk-tuk drivers and motorists to identify suspicious behavior and provided resources on handling such situations. APLE also distributes informative, educational material such as booklets, leaflets, brochures, posters, fliers, and even t-shirts on types of grooming, trends in abuse, and preventative measures related to child protection. Disseminations are often done in tandem with concerts, campaigns, or other large events to enhance the awareness-raising reach of the campaign.

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*Source:*

<http://www.aplecambodia.org>

## 68. Preventing Violence and Abuse through Child-Centered Workshops Promoting Self-Confidence

### Samara – Austria

Through child protection workshops, Samara works with children, parents, and teachers on the prevention of sexual abuse and violence. Child protection workshops allow Samara to work with students in school to strengthen their self-confidence, thereby encouraging them to recognize a violation of their personal space.

Child protection workshops engage students in role playing exercises, story-telling, and group discussions. In each of these modules, children are able to practice asking for help and receiving support in dangerous or critical situations. Samara staff encourages dialogue around ideas of respect, trusting one's own feelings, and personal space. Gender-specific programs are integrated into the workshops, as are projects and specific activities that consider different ethnic and social backgrounds. The workshops also address the special needs of children with disabilities.

When this skill set is developed and these feelings internalized, Samara expects a multiplier effect to occur, with students passing on their knowledge to other children and to their families.

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*Source:*

[http://www.praevention-samara.at/english\\_overview.html](http://www.praevention-samara.at/english_overview.html)

## 69. Providing Assistance to Children of Women in Sexual Exploitation

### SANLAAP – India

SANLAAP's Child Protection Programme, in operation in the redlight areas of Kolkata and its nearby suburbs, runs 14 Drop-In-Centres with full and part-time volunteers serving more than 5,000 children. SANLAAP provides children with education, health care, and other opportunities to cultivate natural and creative faculties. Above all, children are able to find security in the Drop-In Centres that they cannot find in the red light areas. Children born in the redlight district face heightened vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation.

The Child Protection Programme also assists women in sexually exploitative situations by providing a safe environment for their children. At a Drop-In-Centre, youth and adolescents are offered a platform to voice their own opinions and encouraged to participate in their own change. Drop-In Centres are available for education, both non-formal and supplementary, and vocational training. Individual counseling and group therapy are also offered with sessions including music movement, art, and need-based support groups.

SANLAAP's long-term dialogue with the government resulted in the introduction of a program in the redlight areas. SANLAAP will ultimately run 60 centers in Kolkata -- 28 centers are already in operation. The success of each of the programs depends on the individual centers, the nature of the redlight areas, the number of other organizations working, the efficiency of the center and their staff, the support structure available from the family, and the cooperation of the schools.

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*Source:*

<http://www.sanlaapindia.org>

## 70. Educating Children about Cyber Bullying and Stranger Danger

### Smart Online Safe Offline – Australia

Smart Online Safe Offline (SOSO) is an Australian non-profit social partnership that combines the strengths of local communities and the digital media industry to create online campaigns that educate youth about the dangers of the online environment. Employing a multi-faceted media approach, SOSO uses the online space to raise awareness among young internet users on safe internet conduct. In an engaging web portal, SOSO advocacy efforts target online threats such as predation, grooming, cyber bullying, and identity theft.

The SOSO model's innovative and user-friendly design ensures that youth can easily access the material in a way that is palpable for their frame of reference. Under the larger umbrellas of "Cyber Bullying" and "Stranger Danger," SOSO provides clear checklists of what constitutes each, ensuring that site visitors can fully internalize when their rights are being violated or their safety is at-risk.

Youth can "report a creep," play games, create online avatars or "web warriors," and watch videos on cyber bullying and stranger danger. An interactive portal allows SOSO users to engage in their own safety education in a manner that sustainably furthers their learning.

# 71. Facilitating a Safer Internet to Raise Awareness of Risks to Children Online and to Combat Abuse

## Safer Internet Programme – European Commission

The Safer Internet Programme, under the framework of the European Commission and co-funded by the European Union, is a multi-stakeholder project administered by Insafe and INHOPE, representing networks of NGOs, law enforcement bodies, and academic institutions committed to making the Internet a safer place for children. Although children and young people are well-skilled in using the Internet, often they are ill-equipped to navigate the potential risks that exist online. The Safer Internet Programme, through a network of Safer Internet Centres, comprised of an awareness center, helpline, hotline, and youth panel, provides young people, parents, educators and caregivers with information, advice, support, and resources.

Safer Internet Centres are present in 30 European countries and are responsible for developing informative materials and organizing awareness-raising events for children and parents in addition to receiving and writing reports on safe Internet practices. The Centres consult with youth panels to ensure children are engaged participants in the campaign to promote a safer Internet. The Safer Internet Programme has effectively fostered collaboration between a variety of stakeholders, from mobile phone companies to child welfare NGOs. Using these networks, the Programme aims to raise awareness by training school staff, children, and their parents on safe Internet use and has even organized a Safer Internet Day, which takes place every February since 2004.

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*Source:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/sip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/index_en.htm)

## 72. Providing Adequate Services to Meet the Needs of Migrant Children

### The Project Mario – Central and South East Europe

The project Mario was created in response to a growing need for the protection of migrant children in Central and South East Europe. Nationally operating in Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Poland, and transnationally coordinating between the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Greece, Macedonia, Belarus, and Ukraine, the project Mario aims to better protect migrant children by strengthening national and transnational capacities to respond to child trafficking and exploitation.

Through capacity building trainings, the project Mario targets professionals who are directly involved with victims of trafficking or exploitation, notably state social services, child protection workers, and staff of emergency shelters. Trainings are also offered for police and border patrol officers who are trained in data collection to identify root causes and trends of child trafficking in the region.

Regionally, the project Mario investigates changing routes and patterns of child trafficking throughout Central and South East Europe to design new advocacy efforts that are rooted in concrete evidence. Partners of the project Mario are trained on investigation techniques. As the transnational nature of the phenomenon requires transnational cooperation, the project Mario connects professionals from countries of origin, transit, and destination through information sharing and joint training.

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*Source:*

[www.marioproject.org](http://www.marioproject.org)

# **Part V.**

## **Protection of Children from Economic Exploitation**

## 73. Preventing Child Marriage and Child Labor through Education and Training

### National Child Labor Project – India

The National Child Labor Project (NCLP) in Purulia (West Bengal) is a special school program run by the Department of Labor to rehabilitate children formerly engaged in harmful factory and farm work by providing them with education, vocational training, nutrition, and healthcare. The students, especially girls, are actively engaged (as “child activists”) in the prevention of child marriage and child labor. With support from UNICEF, the schools in Purulia educate students about their rights, and teach tools like leadership development, communication skills, and problem solving.

Of the 93 schools operating under NCLP, 23 have child rights groups. The children have even begun publishing their own newsletter. For many of these students, this is the only place that allows them to be children and learn about their rights. Learning in schools has given girls the confidence and knowledge they need to stand up to their families and provide an alternative to child marriage. When children know their rights, they are able to challenge child marriage and focus on their education.

In an effort to restore lost childhoods, NCLP includes many extracurricular activities and carries that focus on interactive learning through the schooling process. Song, dance, and theater participation is also encouraged as a means to offer victims a chance to confront and release their trauma while developing self-confidence. To further incentivize parents to send their children to school, NCLP provides parents with a small stipend for each child who stops working and starts attending school.

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*Sources:*

[www.unicef.org/protection/india\\_27167.html](http://www.unicef.org/protection/india_27167.html)

<http://labour.nic.in/content/division/nclp.php>

## 74. Protecting Children from Economic Exploitation

### International Cocoa Initiative – Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire

The International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) sensitizes cocoa farmers in Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire to the dangers of abusive labor practices. ICI has helped heighten the visibility of child and forced labor in the cocoa sector and works with local communities, employers, and NGOs to catalyze the steps necessary to change the attitudes and practices which perpetuate child labor.

**Community Mobilization and Awareness Raising:** ICI specializes in working within cocoa-growing communities, from the bottom upwards to raise awareness about child labor and forced labor, and about what makes a community vulnerable to the phenomenon.

**Access to Quality Education:** ICI invests in improving access to quality education, including the construction or rehabilitation of basic school infrastructures, provision of education materials, and training of teachers. ICI also uses schools as the basis for fostering an improved awareness of child labor issues and establishing monitoring systems to track school enrollment and attendance.

**Provision of Basic Services:** As child labor and forced labor are driven or exacerbated by poverty, ICI supports community projects that enhance the populations’ access to basic services, such as health care, water or sanitation. This reduces the cost to families (in terms of both money and time) of meeting their basic needs, and so minimizes the pressures that force the poorest households to put their children to work in order to supplement the household’s productive capacity and income.

**Livelihood Support:** To tackle the poverty that underscores exploitation, ICI, in partnership with other specialized agencies, also works to improve the viability and sustainability of livelihoods in cocoa growing communities to give poor households a higher level and greater stability of income. ICI and its partners promote enhanced agronomic techniques to increase farmers’ cocoa yields.

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Source:

[www.cocoainitiative.org/en](http://www.cocoainitiative.org/en)

## 75. Combating Child Labor with an Educational Initiative

### American Institutes for Research – Nicaragua

The American Institutes for Research (AIR), in cooperation with its Nicaraguan partners (la Cuculmeca, INPRHU-SOMOTO, and Club Infantil), has undertaken the ENTERATE (Educando Niños Trabajadores y Erradicando Actividades y Trabajos Explotadores) initiative to promote quality education as a vehicle to reduce the worst forms of child labor. In addition to providing access to appropriate and relevant education, AIR offers skills and vocational training in both rural and urban areas in the Departments of Jinotega and Madriz.

Public-private partnerships are emphasized whenever possible. In rural areas, AIR encourages grassroots NGO and corporate partnerships to provide services and sustain the schools for children who live on nearby coffee plantations. Services are also offered to children who are working in other exploitive labor markets.

The five key objectives of the ENTERATE initiative are: using education to prevent children from entering into exploitive labor situations; enhancing national capacity to combat child labor; raising awareness on education as a child's right and a deterrent from exploitive situations; encouraging monitoring and data collection on child labor; and ensuring the long-term sustainability of projects and programs.

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*Source:*

<http://www.air.org/expertise/index/?fa=view&tid=14>

## **76. Working with Local Councils to Strengthen Schools and Social Welfare Institutions and Abolish Child Labor**

### **Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiva Foundation – India**

Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiva Foundation's (MVF) Child Rights Protection Forum works with the *gram panchayats* or local self-government and village councils in India to strengthen the existing schools and local social welfare institutions. The gram panchayats have a duty to review, monitor, and support all child-related institutions. MVF's partnership with the gram panchayats aids them in participating in and embracing responsibility for planning and implementing the program of abolition of child labor through the universalization of elementary education at the village level. By getting involved in the functioning of schools and supporting the school committees, these local councils can prevent school dropouts.

MVF is an NGO partner, along with NGOs from six European countries, in the "Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work" campaign geared towards abolishing child labor, facilitating access to education, and encouraging Indian youth to stay in school through at least age 15. MVF provides technical support in implementing the campaign across Central America and Africa.

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Source:

<http://www.mvfindia.in/camp.htm>

## **77. Working to Eliminate Child Labor in the Tobacco Sector to Provide Children with Greater Opportunities**

### **Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation – Global**

Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation (ECLT) is a multi-stakeholder partnership of trade unions, growers and companies with the ILO as advisor. ECLT demonstrates a multi-faceted approach to eliminating child labor by supporting field projects, funding independent research, and publishing lessons learned. ECLT works in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines.

Children in Kyrgyzstan are often involved in coal and gold mining as well as cattle rearing. As the result of the long distances to go to school, poor quality of education in some areas, and lack of employment alternatives coupled with a demand for labor and a weak legal and regulatory framework, many Kyrgyz youth are victims of child labor. To combat this phenomenon, ECLT launched an important initiative that attempts to improve the living standards of local farmers, thereby reducing the vulnerability of youth to child labor. Local farmers are eligible for a microcredit at a preferential interest rate only on the condition that they sign up with a pledge not to employ children in their fields. ECLT created mutual aid groups in 37 villages and two localities in Kyrgyzstan that function as a support group, but are also tasked with monitoring farmers' adherence to the pledge.

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*Source:*

<http://www.eclt.org/site/projects-and-progress/kyrgyzstan-2/>

## 78. Striving to Improve the Quality of Life of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children

### International Initiative to End Child Labor – Global

The “Children in the Fields” campaign strives to improve the quality of life of migrant and seasonal farmworker children by: 1) advocating for enhanced educational opportunities; 2) improvements in labor laws protecting children in agriculture; and 3) improved enforcement.

The International Initiative to End Child Labor’s (IIECL) campaign includes not only the U.S., but countries around the world where agriculture is prevalent. Since its creation in 1997, IIECL has advocated for stronger U.S. federal child labor laws through its Children in the Fields campaign. It has partnered with the Child Labor Coalition, the National Consumers League, and other concerned parties to publicize the plight of this hidden population.

On the domestic front, the U.S. National Child Labor Coalition, of which IIECL is a long-standing member, has used its extensive network of coalition members to inform the public and advocate for U.S. legislation that would strengthen the child labor safeguards in agriculture so that they are just as protective as those in all other industries. To support the domestic campaign, IIECL has supported the conduct of field investigations that have uncovered children working in the fields in the U.S. and Mexico and other Latin American and Caribbean nations, often in their country of origin. IIECL has supported initiatives in three Latin American countries working with former migrant worker youth and migrant families implementing needed interventions that encourage youth to remain in their home countries. This was done in collaboration with Campesinas in El Salvador and Guatemala and IIECL’s own work in Mexico.

## 79. Combating Child Labor Exploitation by Providing Educational Opportunities

### World Vision Philippines – Philippines

World Vision Philippines, a non-profit organization, administers the ABK initiative – a special project for combating child labor through education in the Philippines. The letters ABK were taken from the three letters of the old Filipino alphabet Alibata to form the acronym for “Pag-Aaral ng Bata para sa Kinabukasan” (Education for the Children’s Future).

#### ABK2: TEACH – Take Every Action for Children

In this project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, children engaged in or at risk of the worst forms of child labor are placed under the Educational Assistance Program, and/or the Catch-up Program. Older children will be offered review sessions prior to exams. Others will be provided Vocational and Technical skills training. This project will run from 2011-2016 and is aimed towards helping eliminate exploitative child labor in the sugarcane producing areas in the Philippines. World Vision works with various Philippine government and non-government agencies to increase the project’s impact.

#### ABK3: LEAP: Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy and Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane

In the Philippines, children often begin working in the sugarcane fields at an early age. They are exposed to scorching heat, dangerous chemicals, and machetes. ChildFund Philippines is one of six implementing agencies of ABK3 LEAP: Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy and Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane. The four-year project, headed by World Vision Philippines, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, aims to lift 52,000 children out of the unsafe labor conditions found in the cane fields. The project provides educational opportunities for children, sustainable livelihoods for their parents, and youth employment services among other services across 11 provinces.

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Source:

<http://worldvision.org.ph/>

## 80. Helping Urban Migrant Children through Social and Educational Programs

### INCLUDED – China

Currently assisting over 8,000 migrants to gain access to services, Compassion for Migrant Children, recently renamed INCLUDED, is a collaborative effort bridging various facets of civil society that support the children of migrant workers in China. Under the aegis of INCLUDED, organizations, individuals, and companies provide a structured framework through which migrants can access services and humanitarian assistance.

By engaging the Chinese government in constructive forums, INCLUDED is able to access local and national officials to facilitate meaningful change that can positively improve the conditions for children of migrants in the long term. In partnership with local stakeholders, INCLUDED builds community centers in regions of China most populated by migrant laborers. These community centers offer programs for migrant children and a life vocational skills training program for older migrant youth. INCLUDED also runs an after school program and a teacher training program to fill educational gaps migrant youth are facing. These tools allow the children of migrants to remain competitive with their peers in the labor market.

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*Source:*

<http://www.cmc-china.org>

# **Part VI.**

## **Protection of Children in Situations of Emergency**

## 81. Drawing Attention to the Plight of Child Refugees through Media Campaigns and Research Reports

### **Iraqi Children Trapped (World Vision Project) – Iraq**

World Vision launched the “Iraqi Children Trapped” project to highlight the problem of millions of Iraqi child refugees displaced during the country’s ongoing conflict.

Numerous compelling child refugee testimonies were captured in the media campaign entitled “Iraqi Children Trapped.” The video went viral on YouTube and proved to be an effective campaign in drawing attention to the plight of these children.

The report, “Trapped! Unlocking the future of Iraqi refugee children,” focused on the fate of Iraqi children in Jordan and was the result of more than 100 interviews with families in Amman. Youth shared with researchers harrowing stories of violence, kidnappings, murder, and bomb blasts. The report included recommendations for a range of decision-makers, governments, NGOs, and the United Nations on how to improve the lives of these children.

Recommendations from the report were presented at a conference of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and called on the international community to provide necessary funding for needed education solutions and to increase accepted admissions of refugee families.

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*Source:*

<http://meero.worldvision.org/docs/54.pdf>

## 82. Ensuring Adequate Treatment Services to Child Torture Survivors

### International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims – Global

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is a health-based umbrella organization that supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and the prevention of torture worldwide. IRCT's members comprise more than 140 independent organizations in over 70 countries. Today, IRCT is the largest membership-based civil society organization to work in the field of torture rehabilitation and prevention. Among its many programs, IRCT ensures adequate treatment services to child torture survivors and advocates on behalf of child torture victims worldwide.

IRCT's current projects include a child torture victim initiative. IRCT works to ensure that the rehabilitation services it provides reach child victims of torture to help them rebuild their dignity. To date, few statistics and little documentation exist on the subject. For this reason, IRCT activated a baseline study to be conducted by an advisory group to synergize scientific data with best practices to enhance the appropriate protective and preventive measures. IRCT regularly increases its partnerships with child rights organizations and advocacy groups.

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*Source:*

<http://www.irct.org/our-work/current-focus-areas/child-torture-survivors.aspx>

## **83. Supporting Child Soldiers and Other Children Affected by Conflict through Counseling, Education, and Vocational Training**

### **Jubilee Action – Uganda**

Jubilee Action's Youth Center in Patonga, Uganda, offers programs and services to child soldiers and other youth affected by conflict in the region. Under the terror of the Lord's Resistance Army, many child soldiers, boys and girls alike, were forced to commit terrible atrocities against civilians or to become sex slaves, porters, spies, and human shields.

To help local youth overcome the trauma they suffered, Jubilee Action runs a counseling program and supportive youth groups. These projects allow children and young people the opportunity to share their experiences, traumas, and feelings with their peers in a safe environment.

When no longer needed, child soldiers are often discarded and left with little formal education or training, and thus struggle to support themselves in a formal sector. Jubilee Action is providing business training to support Village Loan Associations in 30 established youth groups, thereby enabling 1,000 youth to begin earning a reasonable income. To facilitate success in the community, Jubilee Action is also working to eliminate stereotypes and stigmatizations held by some community members against former child soldiers through sensitivity trainings and public awareness campaigns.

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*Source:*

<http://www.jubileeaaction.org/projects.php/2/youth-centre-patongo-uganda>

## 84. Providing Direct Counseling Support and Recreational Outlets for Children in Conflict Areas

### Middle East Children's Alliance & Afaq Jadeeda (New Horizons) – Gaza

The Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) and Afaq Jadeeda (New Horizons) established a partnership in 2005 to provide for the needs of children and their families in the Nuseirat Refugee Camp in Gaza.

One of the initiatives undertaken is the "Let the Children Play & Heal Program". This psychosocial support program was initiated to address children's psychological needs after ongoing assaults on Gaza. "Let the Children Play and Heal" gives tens of thousands of children and youth opportunities to express themselves through art, dance, music, story-telling, theater, and puppetry; to get support from the larger community; and to have fun and just be children.

Teams of Afaq Jadeeda's trained staff members, supervised by a psychologist, visited 120 schools and community centers throughout Gaza to work directly with 110,000 children ages 4-15. In addition to the group art activities, the teams identified children who need follow-up for their physical and psychological wounds and referred them for specialized ongoing care and treatment.

Afaq Jadeeda experts have led 20-hour training courses for mothers in different areas of Gaza that gave 480 women new ideas for ways to support their children. Additionally, Afaq Jadeeda created and distributed 10,000 pamphlets for parents that give advice on dealing with children during crisis situations. All programs in the first year of the project are free. Afaq Jadeeda and MECA's partnership offer a tremendous opportunity to heal the psychological wounds of tens of thousands of children who might otherwise be facing a lifetime of depression, anxiety, and rage.

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Source:

<http://www.mecaforpeace.org/partners/afaq-jadeeda-association>

## **85. Assisting Refugee and Special Needs Children in Living Stable Childhoods through Education and Creative Play**

### **Children on the Edge – Global**

Guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Children on the Edge (COE), a charity organization with offices in the U.K. and Thailand, helps the most marginalized and vulnerable children worldwide, those literally “on the edge.” Children on the Edge coordinates safe play and education centers in post-conflict regions and trainings and trafficking prevention programs for at-risk youth. COE also works with vulnerable children fleeing ethnic cleansing or domestic unrest.

On the riverbanks between Burma and Thailand, COE supports 1,440 displaced children ages three to six by providing programs to meet their physical and psycho-social needs. COE is setting up safe places with a trusted adult presence where children have access to education and safe play. Training on basic education, creative play, and skills for dealing with trauma are being provided to 72 teachers using local resources.

In Bangladesh, COE has developed a unique model for delivering primary education to children living in refugee camps. It operates 60 covert classrooms in one of the camps, enabling 1,800 children to have access to education who have been denied refugee status. Head teachers receive complete training and then train additional teachers in the camp. Following their courses, students take official exams to ensure that their education will be recognized despite their legal status.

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*Source:*

<http://www.childrenontheedge.org/>

## 86. Providing Shelter, Counseling, and Education Programs to At-Risk Street Children

### Don Bosco Homes – Liberia

Since 1992, Don Bosco Homes in Liberia has worked to support street children in Monrovia. Outreach workers visit 20 police depots daily to intervene on behalf of juveniles being held in jail. In the country, there are virtually no juvenile correction centers, and as such, street children face considerable risk and hardship when apprehended and taken to the local jail. Don Bosco Homes is connecting with roughly 500 street children each month in Monrovia through the use of Don Bosco facilities and services.

Don Bosco Homes engages in a variety of initiatives to assist in child protection and development including counseling, medical attention, advocacy, legal assistance, skills training, family reunification, literacy programs, academic aid, and leisure activities. Shelters, referred to as juvenile reception centres or night-shelters, have recently been opened in three areas of the city. Children are encouraged to visit the centers to avoid trouble and maintain academic or literacy work.

In partnership with the community, local entrepreneurs, and police, Don Bosco Homes sees children as the active agents of change for their own lives and within their communities. Under the guardianship of Don Bosco Homes, older children are pioneering the Community Teams Programme. This program gives the chance to play football and kickball while teaching meaningful life skills about organization, personal initiative, and sense of community. The teams also raise community awareness about children's rights and the need for communities to take responsibility for their children. Teams engage in workshops held at a Don Bosco location to discuss ideas on further expanding community protection mechanisms.

## 87. Helping Children Orphaned by Genocide

### Jubilee Action – Rwanda

With support from Jubilee Action, the Think Money Group supports vulnerable children who have been orphaned by genocide with education and rehabilitation programs. Following the 1994 Rwandan genocide, millions of children were left orphaned, with the numbers swelling due to deaths from HIV/AIDS. A program of Child Headed Households (CHH) was encouraged, which included a group of orphans living together with no adult guardianship. However, with little education or skills training, many of these children are at-risk of being exploited in an effort to support the younger ones.

The Think Money Group runs a vocational training center in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, which provides training for heads of CHH in various vocations, including basket making, carving, handicrafts, and tailoring. Young people are also taught the practical skills of financial management, budgeting, and saving money to enable them to better protect themselves and their siblings.

Children are also encouraged to identify one adult in the community whom they trust to become their mentor. Mentorships help children rebuild trust in adults, establish healthy relationships, and recover from past trauma and current stresses associated with CHH responsibilities.

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*Source:*

<http://www.jubileeeaction.org.uk/projects.php/6/education-equality-and-empowerment-musanze-rwanda>

## **88. Providing Impoverished and Orphaned Children in Areas of Political Transition with Access to Education and Support Centers**

### **SOS Children's Villages – Romania**

SOS Children's Villages believes in children being active agents in their own development and the importance of family strengthening programs. SOS Children's Villages works with disadvantaged families for crisis prevention in an attempt to support and strengthen the family unit, especially in conflict or crisis situations.

SOS Children's Villages began working in Romania in 1989. At present, there are three SOS Children's Villages, three SOS Youth Facilities, two SOS Kindergartens, and five SOS Social Centres. These services, operating in three locations throughout the country, support children, young people, and their families by offering health care, counseling, trainings, day care, and education in a multi-faceted approach to community support. The prevention of abandonment and poverty is a high priority for SOS Children's Villages Romania, thus family-strengthening programs have been initiated at all three SOS Children's Village locations.

These initiatives reflect the priority of SOS Children's Villages Romania, which is to prevent poverty and child abandonment, a real risk in the country. The programs aim to enhance the capacity of children, who may be vulnerable to poverty or family dissolution to grow up in a supportive, loving environment. SOS Children's Villages partners with local authorities and social service systems to further strengthen at-risk family units.

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*Source:*

<http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/europe/romania/Pages/default.aspx>

# **Part VII.**

## **Protection of Children in the Justice System**

## **89. Providing Innovative Techniques for Reducing Victim Stress during Court Interviews and Medical Examinations**

### **Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters – United States**

The Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters (CHKD) Child Abuse Program’s innovative service uses pet therapy in its facility to make children less anxious prior to interviews and examinations. Pet therapy is increasingly recognized at hospitals as an effective method to alleviate some of the anxiety and apprehension children feel when hospitalized as a result of abuse.

The Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters employs trained service dogs to work with traumatized children who have been affected by child abuse. The program began at the hospital in 2005 as the “Buddy Brigade,” a service which brought pet therapy dogs to the bedside of sick children to help ease anxiety during treatments. The Buddy Brigade service was added to the Child Abuse Program in 2008. The comfort provided by a four-legged friend can calm nerves and measurable health benefits include lower blood pressure and improved recovery times.

CHKD is applying for a facility dog that would be present at the hospital at all times and could be used during the forensic interview process to attend court hearings and sit in the witness box while children testify.

## 90. Assessing Protection Systems and Building Practitioner Capacity in Child Protection and Advocacy Organizations

### The African Child Policy Forum – Africa

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) is an independent, not-for-profit, pan-African institution that is focused on policy research and promoting dialogue on the African child.

The ACPF works to ensure children's rights and legal safeguards for children in contact with the justice system. In November 2011, ACPF and Defence for Children (DCI) convened the Global Conference on Child Justice in Africa in Kampala, Uganda with the goal of bringing together the relevant stakeholders and mobilizing effective follow-up actions of national and international legislation, policies, and practices regarding implementing child-friendly justice systems in Africa. As a result of the conference, Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice System in Africa were developed. ACPF and DCI plan to carry out country consultations to help implement the recommendations made in the Guidelines, and to lobby the African Union Commission to adopt the Guidelines.

In addition, the ACPF manages a number of other child-focused programs including the Safeguarding Children in Africa initiative that assesses the effectiveness of child protection systems in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Study findings indicated serious gaps and limitations in the legal and policy framework for child protection, including breaches in terms of ratification, harmonization, and effective implementation of international instruments; an absence of a legislative framework and national policies or guidelines for the protection of children within child-centered organizations; and a general lack of awareness of child protection mechanisms and trends of abuse. ACPF initiated a "Train the Trainers" program on child protection in the four countries addressed in the assessment and is designing procedures for states to ensure the protection of children with child-centered associations.

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*Source:*

<http://www.africanchildforum.org>

# 91. Ensuring that Children Disclosing Abuse are Protected by Intervention Systems

## National Children's Alliance – United States

Responding to the potential re-victimization threat children face when assisted by various intervention systems, the primary goal of all Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC), run by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) is to end child abuse and neglect after disclosure.

Comprehensive victim response typically includes agency personnel from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical assistance, victim advocacy, and mental health services. Each outfit has their own role to fulfill in the investigation and intervention procedures. As such, efforts are often duplicated, resulting in multiple interviews that may re-traumatize the child victim.

The NCA Children's Advocacy Centers were founded in an attempt to coordinate these processes so as to best protect the victim while still fulfilling all necessary legal and social service requirements. The system was refined from being disaggregated and repetitive to a more streamlined, coordinated process. This powerful concept of coordination between community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention system allows for better victim care.

At present, there are 750 Children's Advocacy Centers nationwide. Each center, while adhering to national standards and following a national framework, is distinctly designed to meet the needs and challenges of its community.

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*Source:*

[www.nationalchildrensalliance.org](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org)

## 92. Providing Education, Shelter, and Economic Empowerment to Children through Advocacy and Services

### Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society – India

Created in 1988, in response to a fire that devastated a north Delhi slum, Prayas has grown from an organization initially focused on providing shelter and education to children affected by disaster, to a multi-faceted, internationally recognized advocacy group that provides alternative education, shelter homes, health and nutrition, a 24-hour helpline, and other services to marginalized children across India.

Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society is a national humanitarian child-focused development organization. Of the 231 centers operated by Prayas, 11 homes are exclusively for children and serve nearly 11,000 youth. Prayas offers street-children, who cannot afford to attend government schools, the opportunity for rehabilitation into mainstream society. Other focus areas include issues related to child protection and the juvenile justice system, trafficking in children, vocational and life skills training, and the promotion of entrepreneurship.

Additionally, the Prayas Juvenile Justice Centre, a unique collaborative partnership of the Delhi Police, Delhi School of Social Work, and Shramik Vidyapeeth, develops programs of learning, counseling, child protection, restoration, and rehabilitation for neglected, delinquent, and runaway children. Following the stipulations outlined in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act of 2000, Prayas strives to offer protection to children in need, including effective legal interventions against abuse and exploitation. The Prayas Juvenile Justice Centre is also entrusted with The Observation for Boys at Delhi Gate, a center of non-institutional and institutional care for children in conflict with the law.

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*Source:*

<http://www.prayaschildren.org/>

## 93. Investigating, Prosecuting and Monitoring Cases of Child Exploitation

### National Child Protection Authority – Sri Lanka

The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) of Sri Lanka is the governmental body tasked with protecting the rights of Sri Lankan children. The NCPA was mandated to design and implement anti-abuse policies and programs to prevent exploitation. Additionally, the NCPA coordinates government and civil society stakeholders to monitor trends, conduct research, and mobilize and allot resources where and when needed.

In 2002, a Special Investigations Police Unit was established within the National Child Protection Authority. The new Unit, boasting 16 officers, is a large increase from the two previously tasked with Special Investigations. Operating under the Deputy Inspector General of Police - Crimes and Operation, the Special Investigations Police are responsible for cases of child abuse that are reported to the NCPA. The Unit focuses on criminal investigations of child labor, child trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation and the NCPA is legally required to monitor the progress of all investigations and criminal proceedings relating to the child abuse case.

Additionally, the Special Investigations Police Unit communicates with INTERPOL and relevant embassies when cases of child abuse by foreign nationals are reported to the authorities.

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*Source:*

<http://www.childprotection.gov.lk/index.php/police-unit>

## 94. Providing Healthcare to Children Living in Jails Due to the Imprisonment of their Parents

### Child Family Health International – Bolivia

The Children Living in Jails program is run through Child Family Health International (CFHI) and provides multi-faceted health services to children who are living in jails with their parents. The program is based in La Paz, Bolivia and focuses its efforts on providing aid to children under the age of six. Bolivia allows children to accompany their mothers in jail in order to prevent them from becoming orphans; however, the jail systems do not provide any medical care for these children.

Children Living in Jails started in 2006 and was the first program in Bolivia to provide medical assistance to the many children accompanying their mothers in jail. From providing birth certificates to children born in jails to supplying basic medicines and treatments, the program offers critical medical and psychological health-related assistance to children. Children Living in Jails has drastically raised community and national awareness of this critical issue, with several organizations now dedicated to improving the living conditions for children in jails in La Paz. Since undertaking such efforts, the incidence of malnutrition has diminished significantly and children are now able to enroll in the formal education system.

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*Source:*

[www.cfhi.org/web/index.php/program/viewdonatable/id/19#](http://www.cfhi.org/web/index.php/program/viewdonatable/id/19#)

## **95. Conducting Investigations of Trafficking Abuses and Mobilizing Intervention on Behalf of Trafficking Victims**

### **International Justice Mission – Global**

The International Justice Mission (IJM) operates around the world to assist victims of slavery, exploitation, and trafficking. With a legal focus, the International Justice Mission seeks to make public justice systems reflect a victim-centered approach, offering protection to victims of abuse or oppression.

IJM serves victims by pushing individual cases of abuse through the justice system, thereby advancing cases from the investigative stage to the prosecutorial stage, all the while identifying sources of corruption and/or lack of good will and resources to afford victims adequate protection. The fourfold purpose of IJM is victim relief, perpetrator accountability, victim aftercare, and structural transformation.

The most immediate priority of IJM is relief from abuse for the victim. IJM strives to ensure that perpetrators are held responsible before the law, thereby decreasing the likelihood of trafficking by illustrating the very real consequences of exploitation. Through partnerships with local groups on the ground, IJM helps victims rebuild their lives, including providing support for their emotional and physical needs. Finally, IJM works toward prevention by engaging community groups and local judiciaries to strengthen the capacity of on-the-ground stakeholders to combat sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

## 96. Providing Legal Counseling and Other Assistance to Child Victims and Child Witnesses

### **Bachpan Bachao Andolan & Delhi Legal Services Authority – India**

In its campaign to end child labor and exploitation, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) advocates on behalf of Indian child trafficking victims in need. The Legal Aid Cell of Bachpan Bachao Andolan, co-founded with the Delhi Legal Services Authority, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority, offers immediate assistance, care, and protection afforded for children by the law. The Legal Aid Cell provides child-friendly access to legal services and is able to receive complaints and offer representation before law enforcement authorities, courts of law, and any other type of social justice or welfare protection mechanism.

The Legal Aid Cell also offers legal counseling, which may be accessed by child victims and child witnesses who are pursuing cases filed for the prosecution of child traffickers. Legal counseling services also incorporate psychological support to ensure that the mental and emotional health of the child victims who seek legal counseling are protected throughout the legal process.

Legal awareness and legal literacy training is offered to judges, police, and other law enforcement officials to increase their sensitivity to child trafficking and related issues.

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*Sources:*

<http://www.legalaidcell.in>

<http://www.bba.org.in>

## 97. Reducing Youth Detention and Incarceration through a Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign

### Children's Defense Fund – United States

In 2008, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), with many state and local partners, launched the *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* campaign. Its vision is to reduce detention and incarceration of U.S. American Latino and African American youth within states where young people are disproportionately represented within the juvenile justice system.

The *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* campaign includes a coalition of concerned community leaders, government officials, educators, parents, and young people who are dedicated to keeping minority children in school. CDF has convened summits across the U.S. in which participants formulate action plans and create working groups dedicated to promoting best practices and establishing community policies that protect minority youth within their regions. CDF also provides research and other resources that show current data on the issue of youth incarceration in the U.S., recommendations for decreasing the rate of youth incarceration, and models for reforming juvenile justice systems.

Poverty, illiteracy, racial disparity, and massive incarceration disproportionately affects children from minority backgrounds and undermines social progress and child protection within the family and the community. The Black Community Crusade for Children, another initiative of the Child Defense Fund, is committed to keeping African American youth in school, thereby dismantling the pipeline to prison. CDF works to develop current research and analysis on the issue, discuss the challenges, and provide solutions.

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Source:

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs-campaigns/cradle-to-prison-pipeline/>

## **98. Improving Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care by Promoting Youth Participation in Court Cases**

### **American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law & The Commission on Youth at Risk – United States**

The Bar-Youth Empowerment Project, jointly directed by the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law and the Commission on Youth at Risk, actively promotes youth participation in court cases which affect them. Such participation includes offering access to legal counsel and representation to those who are in need of specialized legal assistance. By ensuring youth voices are heard and opinions appropriately represented, the Bar-Youth Empowerment Project aims to improve the end result for youth who are in or have aged out of foster care.

To encourage every state and territory to provide legal representation to youth in foster care, the Project, in partnership with state and federal stakeholders, is developing model state legislation and court procedures that require the appointment of representation for all youth in foster care.

The Bar-Youth Empowerment Project provides training to judges, attorneys, law students, and other advocates on the involvement of youth in court proceedings to enable former foster youth to have access to basic legal services. The Project recruits and trains pro bono attorneys and law students to assist young people with advice and referrals on legal issues including education, public benefits, and housing.

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*Source:*

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child\\_law/what\\_we\\_do/projects/empowerment/projectactivities.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/what_we_do/projects/empowerment/projectactivities.html)

## **99. Assisting Children in Testifying against Traffickers and Abusers and Obtaining Necessary Documentation for Reintegration**

### **Casa Alianza – United Kingdom**

Casa Alianza, an international, non-governmental organization, dedicated to the rehabilitation and defense of street children in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua, reaches out to homeless children in an effort to lead abandoned children from the streets into a productive and happy life.

The legal services team plays a key role in making this possible by assisting children and youth to obtain proper documentation. Many of the children and teens it cares for do not have any form of legal documentation, such as birth certificates or national identity documents, and have no idea how to obtain them although they are vital for reintegration into society. Casa Alianza has an open-door policy and provides support, guidance, and residential care 24 hours a day, all year round, to any child who seeks help.

In addition, Casa Alianza's legal services staff prepare and accompany children through any necessary legal processes including family court hearings and criminal cases where children are required to present testimony against traffickers or abusers. Social workers and psychologists provide multidisciplinary support. Casa Alianza's legal teams also provide education to youth on their human rights and responsibilities as children and citizens. In each country they have provided training to thousands of nationals, judges, prosecutors, and government ministers regarding anti-trafficking laws and how to identify and denounce traffickers. Casa Alianza is currently working with more than 10,000 children annually.

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*Source:*

<http://www.casa-alianza.org.uk/>

# 100. Ensuring Justice, Pre-Trial Safe Custody, and Counseling for Child Victims of Forced Prostitution

## Rescue Foundation – India

Rescue Foundation, located in India, is a non-profit organization that conducts an array of activities in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh to ensure that girls are rescued from a life of a sexual servitude and that perpetrators are brought to justice. When reports are received that a girl is missing from either parents or NGOs, Rescue Foundation conducts a thorough investigation and will, in cooperation with local police, raid brothels and rescue all adult females and young girls who are willing to be rescued.

Rescue Foundation files suits in courts of law to bring traffickers and brothel keepers to justice. Girls are offered legal aid in the form of representation, legal counseling, training for court procedures using mock interviews and mock trials, and producing, with compliance, victims as witnesses in the court proceedings.

Following court proceedings, girls are repatriated, with the accompaniment of Rescue Foundation staff, to their homes or to NGOs that can provide them with assistance. Girls who cannot be repatriated for whatever reason are either absorbed by the Rescue Foundation, receive rehabilitation services at another NGO, or jobs and trainings in Mumbai are identified with the help of Rescue Foundation.

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*Source:*

[www.rescuefoundation.net/activities.html](http://www.rescuefoundation.net/activities.html)

The Protection Project

The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Ste. 501, Washington, D.C. 20036

T: +1 202 663 5896 / F: +1 202 663 5899

[protection\\_project@jhu.edu](mailto:protection_project@jhu.edu)

[www.protectionproject.org](http://www.protectionproject.org)

The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC)

1700 Diagonal Road, Ste. 625, Alexandria, VA 22314

T: +1 703 837 6313 / F: +1 703 549 4504

[information@icmec.org](mailto:information@icmec.org)

[www.icmec.org](http://www.icmec.org)

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The Protection Project, The Johns Hopkins University  
Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)  
1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Ste. 501, Washington, D.C. 20036  
T: +1 202 663 5896 / F: +1 202 663 5899  
[protection\\_project@jhu.edu](mailto:protection_project@jhu.edu)  
[www.protectionproject.org](http://www.protectionproject.org)

The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC)  
1700 Diagonal Road, Ste. 625, Alexandria, VA 22314  
T: +1 703 837 6313 / F: + 1 703 549 4504  
[information@icmec.org](mailto:information@icmec.org)  
[www.icmec.org](http://www.icmec.org)