CHILD ABUSE ON THE INTERNET
Ending the Silence

Edited by
Carlos A. Arnaldo
CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations ix
Notes on Contributors xi
Preface xv
Introduction, Maldwyn Jones xvii

PART ONE: The Problem and Its Context

1A Real World and Cyberworld: Sexual Abuse of Children today

1. A global overview of child abuse and neglect
   Kimberly Svevo 5

2. Sri Lanka: protecting environment and children everywhere
   Maureen Seneviratne 15

3. The Philippines: fighting child abuse
   Alex Corpus Hermoso and Father Shay Cullen 21

4. Kenya: revealing child abuse
   Philista Onyango 25

5. Brazil: family, social and economic perspectives, origins, causes,
   prevention and care
   Hélia Barbosa 29

6. Albania: new hope for abused children
   Aurela Pano 33

7. Ground-level realities and international action: the vital role of
   NGOs
   Hélène Sackstein 35
1B Child Pornography and Paedophilia: Attempting a Definition

8. Paedophilia: a psychiatric and psychoanalytical point of view  
Patrice Dunaigre  

9. Paedophilia: the work of associations and the role of the 
media and research  
Elisabeth Auclaire

1C Child Pornography, Paedophilia and the Internet

10. Child pornography on the Internet  
Ofelia Calcetas-Santos  

11. Research, information and sensitizing the public  
Ulla Carlsson  

12. Paedophiles networking on the Internet  
Rachel O’Connell  

13. Child predators on the Web  
Debbie Mahoney

PART TWO: Combating Child Pornography and Paedophilia on the Internet

2A Where to Draw the Line?

14. Freedom of speech, information and the protection of privacy  
Aidan White  

15. Freedom of information on the Internet: achieving a balance between promotion and protection  
Mark Erik Hecht

2B National and International Law Enforcement, Legal and Juridical Aspects

16. Legal issues and problems in protecting children against pornography  
Ofelia Calcetas-Santos  

17. Legal and juridical aspects: extraterritorial law and extradition  
Pierre Dionne  

18. International cooperation in law enforcement  
Agnès Fournier de Saint Maur  

19. Casa Alianza’s legal work in Central America  
Bruce Harris  

20. Children and the law: the case of Hong Kong  
Gordon Fung
2C Police or Self-Policing: Can the Internet Community Deal with the Problem?

21. The technical response: blocking, filtering and rating the Internet
   Parry Aftab

22. The industry response 1: the Internet industry and illegal content
   Jean-Christophe Le Toquin

23. The industry response 2: self-regulation by the Internet industry
   David Kerr

24. The academic and research response 1: a research and civic initiative in Belgium
   Béatrice van Bastelaer

25. The academic and research response 2: research and cooperation
   Jo Groebel

26. The media response: a journalist’s view of the problem in Asia
   Carol Aloysius

27. The NGO response: ECPAT International’s strategy
   Muireann O’Brien

PART THREE: Where Do We Go From Here?

28. Declaration and Plan of Action
   169

29. The World Citizens’ Movement to Protect Innocence in Danger
   Homayra Sellier

30. Epilogue: the Child is a Person
   Carlos A. Arnaldo

ANNEXES

   183

2. List of sites for the protection of children
   205

Index
   217
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Parry Aftab, Cyberspace lawyer, Head of the US Action Group to Protect Innocence in Danger.

Carol Aloysius, Associate editor and feature writer, The Observer, Sri Lanka.


Hélia Barbosa, Lawyer for Centre for the Defence of Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights (CEDECA) and End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking Children for Sexual Purpose (ECPAT) (Brazil).

Béatrice van Bastelaer, Movement Against Paedophilia on the Internet (MAPI), University of Notre Dame de la Paix, Namur, Belgium.


Ulla Carlsson, Coordinator of the UNESCO International Clearing House on Children and Violence on the Screen, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Rev. Fr Shay Cullen, President of People’s Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation (PREDA), Olongapo, Philippines.
Pierre Dionne, Director-General, International Bureau for Children’s Rights, Montreal.

Patrice Dunaigre, Paedo-psychiatrist and clinical psychoanalyst, Member of the Commission on Children’s Rights of the League of Human Rights, France.

Agnès Fournier de Saint Maur, Specialized Crime Unit, Interpol General Secretariat, Lyon.

Gordon Fung, Assistant Commissioner of Police Crime, Hong Kong Police Headquarters.

Jo Groebel, Director-General of the European Institute for the Media (Dusseldorf) and Chair, Department of Media Competence, University of Utrecht; designed and implemented the UNESCO global research on young people’s perception of violence on the screen in cooperation with the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Bruce Harris, Executive Director, Latin American Programmes of Casa Alianza/Covenant House Latin America, Guatemala.

Mark Erik Hecht, Deputy Director of Human Rights Internet, a Canadian-based non-governmental organization specializing in human rights networking, documentation and publication; has completed research on ‘The Internet and International Children’s Rights’, published as part of a textbook, Human Rights on the Internet.

Alex Corpus Hermoso, Director, People’s Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation (PREDA), Olongapo, Philippines.

David Kerr, Chief Executive, Internet Watch Foundation, Cambridge.

Jean-Christophe Le Toquin, Permanent Delegate of the European Association of Internet Service Providers (EuroIspa).

Debbie Mahoney, Founder and Board President, Safeguarding our Children-United Mothers (SOC-UM), California.

Daniel Mbassa Menick, Prémontré Hospital Centre, France; Founder and Executive President, Cameroon Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CASPCAN).
Muireann O’Briain, Executive Director of ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), Bangkok; Senior Counsel of the Bar of Ireland, specializing in international human rights and children’s rights law and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Rachel O’Connell, Research Director, Cyberspace Research Unit, University of Central Lancashire; former Lecturer in the Department of Psychology, Leicester University, United Kingdom; Project Manager, the COPINE project, Department of Applied Psychology, University College, Cork, Ireland.

Philista Onyango, Director, African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Nairobi, Kenya.

Aurela Pano, Executive Director, Children’s Human Rights Centre of Albania.

Judge Andrée Ruffo, President of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights, Montreal.


Homayra Sellier, President, World Citizens’ Movement to Protect Innocence in Danger; Founder and Director, White Lotus Foundation, Geneva.

Maureen Seneviratne, Chair of PEACE (Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere), Sri Lanka and of the National Group of ECPAT International; journalist and writer of children’s books; appointed by Her Excellency, the President of Sri Lanka as a Member of the Board of the National Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka and the National Monitoring Committee of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Kimberly Svevo, Executive Director, International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), Chicago, United States.

Aidan White, General Secretary, International Federation of Journalists, Brussels; Rapporteur of the Expert Meeting on Sexual Abuse of Children, Child Pornography and Paedophilia on the Internet; presented lead paper on the media at the 1996 Stockholm World Conference against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.
The International community has now begun to mobilize against the scourge of paedophilia on the Internet. UNESCO has sought to fulfil its ethical mission by helping to break the silence on this perverse and pernicious abuse of the most fundamental rights of the child. In calling the ‘Expert Meeting on Sexual Abuse of Children, Child Pornography and Paedophilia on the Internet: an International Challenge’ at its Headquarters in Paris in January 1999, UNESCO sought to provide a forum for United Nations specialized agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the police and judiciary, educators, psychologists and the media to assess the role and contribution of all actors in the fight against child pornography and paedophilia on the Internet.

The international dimension of the effort to end child abuse on the Internet is an essential one. When crime is not restricted by national borders and its perpetrators deliberately exploit a frontier-free medium to further their ends, a global counter-offensive is required. This is why the UNESCO Meeting adopted a Plan of Action as a framework for a coordinated international response.

It is hoped that this publication will not only fulfil the vital function of providing up-to-date information, but that it will also enable us, in partnership, to evaluate and coordinate the world-wide efforts underway to combat the sexual abuse of children through the misuse of the freedom of communication that the Internet offers.
INTRODUCTION

Children have been subjected to violence – physical, psychological and sexual – since the dawn of humankind. Slaughter, enslavement and rape of children have attended war and conflict from pre-history to today’s newspaper. Abraham was prepared to murder his child to honour his deity. Generations of first-born babies were killed for reasons of religious or political expediency. Children have been made to labour in the fields, among the flocks and herds, and in the factories in virtually all societies at one time or another. Throughout history and in different social and cultural contexts, female children have been considered as something less than human – neglected, abandoned, killed, sexually maimed and mistreated. How many barely adolescent girls – and boys – have practised the world’s oldest profession, willingly or otherwise, over the millennia?

Only in the latter half of the twentieth century did the world community formally decide of a common accord that children have rights and that violence of any kind against them constitutes abuse and an unacceptable infringement of those rights. Having adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the international community has increasingly sought to find the means to protect children from abuse, to eliminate the root causes of abuse, to apprehend and heal the abuser, and to rehabilitate and reintegrate abused children so that they can live normal lives.

Sexual abuse of children in particular remains pervasive. This form of violence against children has, until very recently, remained cloaked in a silence imposed by cultural and social mores and taboos, by fear, shame and ignorance, and by the absence of a concerted and coherent response to the problem on the part of modern civil societies.

The media are to be credited for having contributed most over the last two decades of the twentieth century to confronting us, wherever we live on the planet, with the risks and the reality of sexual violence against our children. Paedophilia, child pornography, sex tourism, the no-win equation of sex-for-money-for-drugs – itself an indefatigable syndrome – as well as the
destructive sociology of poverty, war, social and family breakdown in league with the attractive economics of trafficking in children for prostitution. The bottom line is that we can no longer say we do not know.

The Internet, a medium of a new and different sort, has added a late-twentieth century twist, a new ‘virtual’ variable to the problem of sexual abuse of children, specifically as regards pornography and paedophilia. This was the focus of the ‘Expert Meeting on Sexual Abuse of Children, Child Pornography and Paedophilia on the Internet: An International Challenge’ which was held at the initiative of UNESCO’s Director-General on 18 and 19 January 1999 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and which is the subject of this work.

This volume is organized thematically, based on the submissions and interventions of the participants, as well as on a limited amount of other relevant material made available to the UNESCO Secretariat.

Part One begins with the overall context of sexual abuse of children in the world today, then attempts to define precisely what is understood in sociological, psychological and legal terms by child pornography and paedophilia. The phenomena of child pornography and paedophilia on the Internet are then considered in detail.

Part Two considers the strategies that are being – or could be – adopted to combat these problems. These may be legal and regulatory approaches imposed by governments; policies of self-regulation by the Internet industry; and action by individuals, parents, civic groups and NGOs or, as is in fact the case, a combination of all of these. As will be apparent on reading, the debate about just what is the appropriate combination is a lively one. The need for further research is underlined.

Part Three presents the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the participants at the UNESCO Meeting, as well as information on follow-up activities already undertaken or planned. Annexes contain information of a practical nature such as the text of the UN convention on the rights of the child, lists of relevant Internet websites and discussion groups, and references.

If the media in most countries have confronted us with the reality and extent of paedophilia and child pornography, the Internet, by its very nature, has brought these phenomena into our homes. Should we wish – and most of us do not – we can now see it for ourselves. And so can our children. Virtual pornography, virtual flashing and virtual soliciting for pornographic ends or sex are but a keystroke away. And once caught in this mire, it is sometimes difficult to get out.

To survive and thrive ‘commercially’, child pornography and paedophilia were long constrained by the need for physical proximity (family and friends, neighbourhood, community and town) and physical communication supports (magazines, photographs, films and videos). Almost universally proscribed by law and/or by social and cultural taboos, these
phenomena were hidden and secret – more rarely relegated to ‘red light districts’ under close police surveillance – but subject nonetheless to severe repression when revealed. Low-cost air travel has removed the proximity constraint. The Internet and other interactive electronic networks are in the process of removing the communication restraint.

The Internet in particular, with its growing capacity to exchange in real time written messages, telephone calls, data, sound, still and moving pictures, has broken the traditional communication barriers and makes inculcable quantities of information of all kinds and all forms instantly available to anyone with a personal computer – at any time and place in the world. Most Internet users seek social or professional contact and conversation, entertainment and information. Most Internet content providers and millions of existing individual websites cater to this demand – and in a way that causes problems only for the national and international telecommunications regulators left behind in the dust, and the large national and multinational carriers that have traditionally dominated and controlled international electronic communications.

However, several hundred thousand commercial and private websites – proliferating daily – cater to that most basic of all instincts, sex. This is more or less acceptable depending on the social, cultural and legal context of the provider and user. A smaller but apparently growing number of Internet websites, FTP databases, newsgroups and chat rooms are devoted to sexual perversion, child pornography and paedophilia. This is not acceptable, anywhere.

The question is, what should be done?