

# World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse 19 November

## Impact Report 2003

Activities and events organized by international coalition members



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## **III - GLOBAL ACTIVITY REPORT**

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# **I- INTRODUCTION**

## **Message from WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation**

The World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse 2003 was again a great success. Indeed, more than 480 NGOs from over 90 countries organized national and local activities and events on 19 November.

The report features briefly activities and events in three languages (English, French and Spanish), and is edited for reasons of space.

We hope that you have as much pleasure in reading this report as we have in sharing it with you.

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Together, let us create a culture of prevention of child abuse.

Laure Maitrejean  
WWSF - Children's Section Program coordinator

## Why a World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse?

Today, sexual abuse is a universal and alarming problem and increased attention and effective protection skills and prevention measures are urgently needed at family-, local-, national- and international level. After a long tradition of silence, child abuse is being more and more denounced and becoming a public and political concern.

Alerting Governments and civil society organizations to play a more active role in the promotion of and respect for the rights of the child (especially article 19 and 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child), and advocating the need for more effective prevention of child abuse, WWSF launched in 2000 the **World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse**, a Day to be commemorated every **19 November** in synergy with the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November). Objective: to be a rallying call around the issue of child abuse and to highlight once a year prevention and child protection measures around the world.

To make the World Day an annual global call to action, WWSF launched in 2001 an **international coalition of governmental and non-governmental organizations that commits to mark the Day** with appropriate events and activities. The main purpose of the coalition is to catalyse the **creation of a culture of prevention of child abuse** and to be part of a global partnership network to raise awareness, mobilise public opinion and action, disseminate prevention programs, and hold world leaders accountable to their promises made to the children of the world.

**To join the coalition, members commit to mark the Day with local and national events and activities; mention the World Day in their publications and on their web sites; distribute posters, educational programs and information; create partnerships and national coalitions of local organisations working for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child; alert the press and radio stations, inform local authorities of the existence of the World Day and of planned activities; and lobby governments for official proclamation of the Day as a National Day.**

# International Coalition Members 2003

481 organizations / 96 countries

## International Organizations

● Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation – AAPSO ● Agir pour les Femmes en Situation Précaire ● Aldeas Infantiles SOS ● Anti Kinderporno e.V. ● Association Internationale des Magistrats de la Jeunesse et de la Famille - AIMJF ● C@reChild e.V ● Centro de Estudios Internacionales para el Desarrollo – CEID ● Centro Internacional para la Prevención del Abuso Infantil – CIPAI ● Christian Children's Fund of Australia ● Comité International pour la Dignité de l'Enfant – CIDE ● Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd ● Duprevent International ● Education for Peace Globalnet ● Femmes et Enfants du Monde ● First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi ● Institute for Global Leadership ● Institute of International Social Development ● Inter-African Committee - IAC ● International Child abuse Network, Inc. - Yes ICAN ● International Child Art Foundation ● International Child Development Initiatives - ICDI ● International Council of Nurses - ICN ● International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International ● International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect – ISPCAN ● International Youth Shelter Foundation ● Lobby fuer Menschenrechte e.V. ● Mass Education ● Peace Worldwide ● Peter Hesse Foundation SOLIDARITY IN PARTNERSHIP for ONE world in diversity ● P.S. The Children ● Rajani Foundation for Child Rights and World Peace ● Save the Children Norway ● South East European Child Rights Action Network - SEECRAN ● The African Child Association - ACA ● World Asian Workers Organisation ● World Council of Churches ● World Movement of Mothers ● World Organisation for Early Childhood Education - OMEP ● World Union of Catholic Women's organisations ● World Vision International ● World wide Twins and Multiple Births Foundation Inc.

## National Organizations

### Africa

● **Angola** Association Chrétienne d'Appui pour le Monde - ACAM ● **Benin** Association Défis Jeunes pour le Développement - ADJD ● Autre Vie ● Carrefour des Volontaires du Développement - CVD ● Centre d'Assistance Paysanne et d'Aide aux Enfants Démunis - CAPAED ● Centre de Recherche et des Initiatives pour l'Auto-promotion du Monde Rural - CERIAM-ONG ● Conseil National des Femmes Indépendantes du Bénin - CONAFIB/CIF ● ESE – Bénin ● Femmes Béninoises pour le Développement Communal et la Communication - FE. BE. DE. COM ● Femme Rurale ● Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement – GRAPAD ● Groupe de Recherche et d'Appui à l'Auto-promotion durable à la base – GRAAB ● Groupement entente et solidarité ● International Campaign for Freedom and Peace – ICFP ● ONG Bien-Etre et Développement ● ONG Monde-Vie-Liberté – MVL ● Volontaires d'Actions Intégrées pour le Développement - VAID ONG ● **Burkina Faso** Association Femmes 2000 ● **Burundi** Action contre la Pauvreté - ACP asbl ● Arche d'Alliance ● Paysans Actifs Contre l'Ignorance et la Faim - PACIF asbl ● Plan de parrainage ● **Cameroon** Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Team - Project ADAPT ● Association Culturelle Mission de Récréation ● Bawum Akone Women's Farming Association ● Best Colombe ● Cameroon Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect - CASPCAN ● Centre d'Animation des Jeunes pour l'Appui au Développement - CAJAD ● DELICE - Droits de l'Enfant: un Livre pour Chaque Enfant ● FOCARFE ● Health and Environment Program ● No Limit for Women Project ● The Research Institute for Development Communication and School Partnership - RIDCSP ● Women of Africa ● Young Women's Christian Association YWCA ● Youth Development Centre - YDC ● **Central African Republic** Mutualité des Volontaires Africaines pour le Développement en Centrafrique - MVAD/CA ● **Chad** Droits de l'Homme Sans Frontières ● **Comoros** Association pour la Paix et le Développement ● Fondation Comorienne des Droits de l'Homme ● **D.R. Congo** Act. de Solid. Interp. pour un Dév. Intégré – ASIDI ● Action Chrétienne pour la lutte contre la pauvreté – ACLP ● Action Chrétienne pour la Promotion Sociale - A.C.P.S ● Actions pour la Protection et l'Encadrement de l'Enfant - APEE ● African Action Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Women – ACESEF ● Arche d'Alliance ● Association Ami des pauvres asbl. ● Association d'Autopromotion de Femmes et d'Assistance aux Indigents - AAFAI ● Association des Jeunes Femmes du Maniema - AJFMa ● Association Centre Femme et Enfant pour la Paix - ACFEP ● Association pour le Développement Local ● Carrefour d'enfants chrétiens pour le développement, paix et réconciliation ● Centre Africain d'Echange Culturel ● Centre Chrétien pour la Protection de La Flore et de la Faune - CCPFF ● Centre de Développement Communautaire de Mfuti - CEDECOM/COC ● Centre pour la Promotion et l'Education des Communautés de Base - CEPECO ● Centre pour la Protection et l'Encadrement de l'Enfant - CEPPE/Fondation Dieu mon Papa ● Centre pour l'Education et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme – CEDH ● CMD Comité de médiation et de défense des droits humains et la paix ● Comité National de Protection et de Défense des Droits des Enfants - CONAPRODE ● EMO-BARAKA Union pour la Promotion du Paysan ● Fondation Bambale ● Fondation d'Aide aux Dépourvus ● Fondation HERI ● Fondation Orphelinat au Congo ● FORECAP/Maniema ● Forum aux Orphelins des Sinistres et Epidémies - FORSE ● Fraternité sans Frontières ● Groupe d'Actions d'Assistance aux Orphelin - GASO asbl ● Groupe d'Action pour la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Enfant - GRAPEF ● Groupe de Recherches et d'Actions contre la Marginalisation au Kivu - Projet

GRAM-Kivu ● Initiative de Développement du Kivu - IDK ● La main de l'enfant ● Les Amis de la Paix asbl ● Les Anges du Ciel ● Ligue pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme - LIPADHO ● Mouvement pour la Solidarité, l'Assistance et l'Encadrement Social – MSAES ● Organisation des Femmes pour les Activités de Base - OFAC ● Programme d'Appui pour le Développement de la Femme et de l'Enfant du Congo – PADEFECO ● Soutien aux Initiatives Familiales ● SOS Jeunesse et Enfance en Détresse - SOS JED ● Une femme qui en soulève une autre ● Union des Volontaires Associés pour la Paix et le Développement - UNIVADE ● **Egypt** Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation ● **Ghana** Foundation for Children's Rights ● Friends of the Earth ● Glona healthcare and vocational Academy bringing hope and healing ● Goodwill Development Foundation - GOODEF ● International Informatization Academy ● Organisation of African Children's Parents ● Partners in Development International ● Sabbath Christian Church of Ghana, Women Fellowship ● **Guinea** Guinean National Coalition on the children ● **Guinea-Bissau** Initiative Femme ● ONG ASSIMIRA ● **Ivory Coast** Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance - BICE ● Communauté Abel de Grand Bassam ● FEVERT Mouvement Confessionnel ● **Kenya** Abuse Youth Self Help Group ● African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against child Abuse and Neglect – ANPPCAN ● Agency for Youth Technical Support YTS Kenya ● Bungoma Family Helper Project ● Child Aid International ● Christian Partners Development Agency ● Integrated Girl Child Programme – IGEP ● Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children - KAACR ● Kenya Female Advisory Organization - KEFEADO ● Kenya Red Cross Society - Homa Bay Branch ● Rural Women Peace Link ● Voluntary Youth Philanthropist ● Young Muslim Association ● **Liberia** African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against child Abuse and Neglect - ANPPCAN ● Center for Environmental Education and Protection of Liberia - CEEP Liberia ● Promoters of Liberian and Canadian Relationship Inc ● Volunteers for the Care of Abused and Abandoned Children - VOCAAC ● **Madagascar** Association des Médecins des Ministères ● Confédération des Associations Femme et Développement - CAFED ● VRILLE ● **Mali** Association Juris Prudencia ● Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des droits des Femmes - APDF ● Mali-Enjeu ● **Mozambique** Save the Children Norway - Mozambique programme ● **Niger** Association Nigérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme - ANDDH ● Comité de Protection pour l'Enfance au Niger - CPEN ● RAYOUWAN MATA ● **Nigeria** AFRIHEALTH Information Projects/AFRIHEALTH Optonet Association ● Ajegunle Community Project - ACP ● Child Association of Nigeria ● Child Defense Foundation - CHIDEF ● Child Health Organisation ● Child Rights Action Coalition ● Community Health and development Advisory Trust - COHDAT ● Co-operative Federation of Nigeria - CFN ● Development Universal Consortia ● Economic and Social Empowerment of Rural Communities ● End Time Evangelistic Association – ETEA ● Family Unity for sustainable development Foundation - FUSD Foundation ● Friendly Environment and Human Development Foundation ● Grassroots Empowerment Network ● Handicapped Children Protection League in Africa - HACHPLE AFRICA ● Independent Researchers on Youth Development and Nation Building ● Justice and Peace Makers ● Light Bearers Association – LBA ● Maternal and Child Health Development & Education Center ● Nigeria Youth Action Network, South-South Zone - NYAN-SSZ ● People's Rights Organisation - PRO ● Psycho-Human Development organisation ● Right for Children, Youth and Social Development ● Sisters of the Rosy Cross - SIROC ● SOCA Foundation ● Women Action Coalition Child Abuse - WACCA ● Youngstars Foundation ● **Senegal** AMADE Sénégal ● Association pour la promotion de la femme et de l'enfant ● Hand in Hand ● Regroupement des Femmes Consoméristes pour la lutte contre la féminisation de la Pauvreté - RFCP ● **Sierra Leone** Caritas Makeni ● Council of Churches in Sierra Leone ● Kofi Annan Homes for Disadvantaged and Underprivileged Children - KAHDUC ● West Africa Regional Action Group for Children, Youth and the Aged ● World Conference on Children for Peace ● Young Women's Christian Association ● **Somalia** Center for Children's Rights ● Somali Child Protection and Development – SOCPD ● **South Africa** Center for Children's Rights ● Centre for Early Childhood Development ● CHILDLINE South Africa ● Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect – RAPCAN ● **Sudan** Sudan Opon Learning Organization - SOLO ● **Tanzania** Centre d'Education des Femmes Paysannes pour le Développement - CEFPD ● Centre for Women and Children Rights - HISANI ● Family Alliance for Development and Cooperation - FADECO ● Kuleana Centre for Children's Rights ● Tanzania Outreach for Children - TOUCH ● **The Gambia** Shelter for Children ● **Togo** Action Sauver Les Enfants du Monde – ASLEM ● ADEAVE - Togo ● AFRICAMIX Togo ● Association d'Aide aux Orphelins et Enfants Malheureux - AAOEM ● Carrefour de Développement ● "Dieu Vous Aime" - DVA Togo ● Espace Juridique pour le Bien-Etre Social – EJUBES ● Fondation des Droits de l'Enfant – FDE ● Initiatives des Jeunes pour le Développement – IJD ● Joni and friends - Togo ● Maison d'Ecoute le Refuge - MER ● Organisation des Volontaires Acteurs du Développement-Action Plus - OVAD-AP ● Radio Peace FM ● Santé et Action Globale – SAG ● T L K ● Volontaires en Action pour la santé et l'Epanouissement - VASE ● **Uganda** ● Africa Participatory Development Initiative - APDI ● Foundation for Aids Orphaned Children - FAOC ● Raising Voices ● **Zambia** Brethren centre for youth Development Project ● Care for Children in Need – CAFCHIN ● Greenhill Community School and Women Farmers Development Co-Operative Union ● Kafubu block mission children's home and orphanage ● Young Christian Education Club of Zambia ● Youth Against AIDS & Poverty - YAAP ● **Zimbabwe** African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against child Abuse and Neglect - ANPPCAN ● Girl Child Network – Zimbabwe ● World Vision Zimbabwe – WVZ

Asia & Pacific

● **Australia** Commissioner for Children – Tasmania ● **Bangladesh** Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum - BSAF ● Deepti Bhuban ● Development for Better Advancement - DBA ● Halima Handicrafts ● Helpless Women Development Society – HWDS ● Integrated Social Development Effort - ISDE ● Jhalakati Development Society – JDS ● National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh – NFYOB ● Protection for Anti-Social Activities - PASA ● The Fairly Queen ● Village Integrated Development Association - VIDA ● **Cambodia** Child Welfare Group ● **China** Dept of pediatrics of shaanxi provincial people's HOSP OF JIAOTON UNIV. ● ECPAT-Taiwan ● The Committee of Prevention of Child Abuse of East Asia ● **Fiji Islands** National Council of Women ● Pacific Children's Program ● **India** Assam Institute of Sustainable development – AISD ● Bandhua Mukti Morcha ● Barasat Akrapur Human Dev. Org. ● Buddha Outcast Social Society ● Butterflies - Program for street and working children ● Campaign Against Child Trafficking - Tamil Nadu Chapter ● Centre for Child Rights and Development - CCRD ● Centre for Education, Development Action and Research - CEDAR ● Centre for Rural Education and Development - CRED ● Centre for Social Research ● Centre of Concern for Child Labour ● Children's Rights in Goa ● Childright ● Church of North India Social Service Institute ● Citizens Alliance for Rural Development and Training Society - CARDTS ● CUTS Centre for Human Development ● Extensive Rural Poor Development Organisation – ERPDO ● Extensive Welfare Society ● Foundation for Legal Aid, Environment & Social Action - FLSEA ● Gandeepam ● Gram Bharati Samiti – GBS ● Gramodaya Rural Development Society – GRDS ● Green Planet ● Indian Committee of Youth Organizations - ICYO ● Indian Council for Child Welfare, Tamil Nadu ● Indira Gandhi Integral Education Centre ● Integrated Rural Development Society ● Integrated Village Development Centre - IVDC ● JEEVA JYOTHI ● KIDS ● Krityanand UNESCO Club ● Li Environmentica ● Madurai Non Formal Education Centre – MNEC ● Mahila ● Manav Kalyan Sansthan ● Martin Luther King Centre for Democracy and Human Rights ● Mythri Sarva Seva Samithi ● Nazareth Association for social Awareness - NASA ● People's Action for People in Need – PAPN ● People's Cultural Centre - PECUC ● Rural Development Organisation - RDO ● Rural Literacy & Health Programme - RLHP ● SAWED TRUST - Centre for Social Action, Women's Education and Development ● SET-WIN Society ● Small Saving Industries & Social Service Organisation - SISO ● Society for Community Development Project - SCDP ● Society for Community Organisation and Rural Development – SCORD ● Society Of Underprivileged People's - SOUP ● Tamilnadu United Nations Association - TUNA ● UDISHA ● Wing Of Research In Local Development ● Women Hope Foundation ● Women's Organisation in Rural Development – WORD ● Women's Welfare Society ● Youth Welfare Club(R), Shahkot ● **Indonesia** Center for Study and Child Protection ● Sahabat Perempuan or Friends of Women's ● Yayasan Bina Potensi Masyarakat - YAPIM ● **Israel** ● Defence for Children International-Israel ● **Jordan** ● Families & Friends Society of Oersons with disabilities ● **Kyrgyzstan** Public fund “Youth and Modernity” ● **Lebanon** ● Maarouf Saad Social and Cultural Foundation ● National Rehabilitation and Development Center – NRDC ● NGO Sesobel ● **Malaysia** ● Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children ● **Marshall Islands** ● Ministry of Health ● **Myanmar** ● World Vision International - Myanmar ● **Nepal** ● National Disability Uplifment Programme – NDUP ● SEWA Nepal ● Rural Reconstruction Nepal ● Society for Health, Environment & women's Development ● **Pakistan** Bunyad Literacy Community Council - BLCC ● Child Rights and Abuse Committee Pakistan Pediatric Association (Punjab) ● Ecumenical Commission for Human Development ● Foundation S.M.-Hashim ● Hamdam Development Organization ● Idara Aaghosh ● Identity, Merge and Action - AIM ● Khalil Welfare Council – KWC ● Khan Sanjrani Foundation ● Medico Engineer's Forum ● NCCR - NGOs Coalition on Child Rights ● Pakistan Christian Peace Foundation ● Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights ● Pakistan International Peace & Human Rights Organization ● Pakistan National Youth Council ● Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization - PRWSWO ● Sachal sarmast educational society ● Saywa Development Foundation Khairpur Sindh ● Sewa Development Trust Sindh ● Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child - SPARC ● United Christian Welfare Society ● **Papua New Guinea** Village Development Trust ● **Philippines** Childhope Asia Philippines - CHAP ● Children and AIDS Network Philippines - CHAIN ● Children's Laboratory for Drama in Education ● Lunduyan para sa Pagpapalaganap, Pagtataguyod at Pagtatanggol ng Karapatang Pambata Foundation, Inc. ● Narito Munting Puso Club, Inc. ● Philippine Province of the Good Shepherd ● **South Korea** Save the Children Korea ● **Sri Lanka** All Sri Lanken Patient Friendship ● Central Province Child Rights Group ● SAMASEVAYA ● Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum - SLEJF ● **Thailand** Center for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation

## Europe

● **Albania** Albanian Rehabilitation Center For Torture and Trauma ● Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA ● Save the Children - Albania ● “Young Intellectuals, Hope” - IRSH ● **Armenia** Armenian Relief Society, Inc. ● Zartonk-89 ● **Austria** Eltern für Kinder Österreich ● Selbstlaut ● **Azerbaijan** Azerbaijan NGO Alliance for Children Rights ● Humanitarian Center “YUVA” ● **Belarus** Smorgon information center on children rights education ● “Together to the Future!” ● **Bosnia and Herzegovina** Foundation "Land of Friendship and Peace" ● Regionalni centar za talente i djecu sa posebnim potrebama ● **Bulgaria** National Alliance for Volunteer Action ● **Croatia** MiRTa ● **France** Association Contre la Prostitution Infantine - ACPE ● APEV - Aide aux

Parents d'Enfants Victimes ● **Georgia** Human Rights Information and Documentation Center ● Public Health and Medicine Development Fund of Georgia ● TBILISI YMCA ● **Greece** Hellenic Association for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse ● Hellenic Midwives Association ● The Smile of the Child ● **Hungary** Teenage Parliament ● **Ireland** Children's Rights Alliance ● **Italy** La Sentinella ● **Lithuania** NGO Children Support Center ● **Republic of Macedonia** Centre for Human Rights "Amos" Bitola ● Defence for children's rights - section in Macedonia ● Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia ● **Romania** Asociatia Femeilor Din Romania ● Save the Children - Romania ● **Russian Federation** All-Russian Union of NGOs "Civil Society - for Russia's Children" ● Mothers of Chechnya for Peace ● **Scotland** Stirling Council Children's Services ● **Serbia & Montenegro** NGO New Vision ● **Slovak Republic** Center Slnie\_ko ● National Gender Centre and Child Protection Centre ● **Spain** Fundación Intervida ● **The Netherlands** Stichting Match ● **UK** Cyberspace Research Unit, Department of Psychology, University of Central Lancashire ● Genuine Empowerment of Mothers in Society ● Programme on International Rights of the Child, Queen Mary University of London ● **Ukraine** Association of Farmer Women of Zakarpattya ● Father's House International Charity Foundation ● Foundation of Youth Culture and Education ● "Legit" Youth Organization for Gender Equality ● "SYNTEZ" Kharkiv Regional Charitable Association ● Hutsulochka ● Women's Informative Centre ● Women Informative Consultative Centre ● Women's Consultative Center of Zakarpattya ● "Zeleni Karpaty" NGO

## The Americas

● **Antigua & Barbuda** Co-ordinating Council of Women ● **Argentina** Asociación El Trapito - Defensoria de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes ● Casa de la Mujer ● Centro de Estudios e Investigación de la Mujer - CEIM ● Confederación de Trabajadores de la Educación de la Republica Argentina ● Defensoría Pública de Menores ● Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer - FEIM ● Grupo "Desde el pié" ● Instituto de Estudios Juridico Sociales de la Mujer - INDESO MUJER ● Partido Socialista ● Puerta Abierta Recreando ● Red de Familia del Oeste ● Red Informativa de Mujeres de Argentina - RIMA ● Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de jóvenes por los derechos sexuales y reproductivos - REDLAC ● Red Nacional de Adolescentes por la Salud Sexual y Reproductiva ● Religiosas Adoratrices Esclavas del Santísimo Sacramento y de la Caridad ● Salud Activa ● Sociedad Rural Argentina ● S.O.S Niños en Riesgo ● Vida Digna en Santiago del Estero ● **Belize** National Organization for Prevention of Child Abuse and neglect – NOPCAN ● **Bermuda** Family Services ● **Bolivia** Centro Andino Amazonico de Desarrollo Indigena – CAADI ● **Brazil** Education for Peace Globalnet ● **Chile** Fundación de Protección a la Infancia dañada por Estados de Emergencia - PIDEE ● Fundación Margen de Apoyo y Promoción de la Mujer y del/la Adolescente ● ONG RAÍCES ● **Colombia** Asociación Afecto contra el Maltrato Infantil ● Asociación Convenio del Buen Trato ● Fundación Mujeres por Colombia ● Grupo Crecer ● **Costa Rica** Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation ● Defensa de los Niños Internacional - DNI Costa Rica ● Fundación PROCAL ● Federación Costarricense de ONG para la Protección y defensa de la Niñez y la Adolescencia ● Profesional and Business Women Federation ● **Ecuador** Foro Ecuatoriano por la Niñez y la Adolescencia ● **Guyana** Comforting Hearts NGO ● **Haiti** Coalition Haitienne pour la Defense des Droits de l'Enfant - COHADDE ● Jeunesse et Action ● **Mexico** ÁMBAR, Profesionistas por una Vida Digna ● Centro Universitario de la Costa ● Fundación por Nuestros Niños ● **Nicaragua** Asociación de Mujeres de Jalapa contra la Violencia - OYANKA ● **Paraguay** Fundación CEDAI - Centro de Asistencia Integral ● Fundación Mujeres en Riesgo del Py - FUMERP ● Organización Niñez y Familia ● **Peru** Acción por los Niños ● Asociación de Capacitación y Producción Quipus ● Centro de Desarrollo y Asesoría Psicosocial - CEDAPP ● Centro de Estudios Sociales y Publicaciones - CESIP ● Centro de Investigación y Estudios Económicos, Educativos, Sociales y Culturales - CIESCU ● Coordinación Regional Ucayali de la Red Nacional de Promoción de la Mujer ● Coordinadora por los Derechos del Niño CUSCO-CODENI ● Save the Children Canada and UK - programa Perú ● **USA** CALM Child Abuse Listening and Mediation ● Center for Effective Discipline ● National Law Center for Children and Families, Inc. ● Stop It Now! ● **Venezuela** Grupo amigos niños de la calle

# Open Letter to NGO coalition members and partners 2003

*Together, let us create a culture of prevention of child abuse*

**Dear Friends,**

For the fourth consecutive year WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation invites you to participate in the creation of a culture of prevention of child abuse by organizing local and national activities and events on the World Day.

We thank all the 490 organizations that marked the Day in 2002 in more than 100 countries. The list of participating coalition members and a brief presentation of their activities, photos and campaign materials are published on Internet. We also thank the experts and panelists of a first Round Table organized in Geneva on 19 November on the theme: "Progress in preventing child abuse." A report is also available on our web site.

This year, we encourage you again to continue to develop national NGO coalitions to help reinforce the impact of your activities, establish effective collaboration, and share the development of new innovative prevention measures.

## **Objectives of the World Day**

**Sensitize** all citizens including national and international actors on the urgent need for effective prevention measures.

**Develop** and increase exchange of existing prevention programs and participate in the creation of new programs.

**Consolidate** networking for common activities on 19 November.

**Reinforce** collaboration with your Government and invite them to declare 19 November "National Day for prevention of child abuse".

**Inform** the media about the Day and invite them to cover your activities and events.

**Support** and participate in the creation of "A World Fit for Children" and in the Global Movement for Children.

## **Working Principles**

**Identify** other organizations and groups that will mark the Day with you.

**Invite** children and young people to participate in your activities and become the real actors of the Day.

**Regularly remind** Heads of State and Governments of their promises made to the children at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children via the WWSF "Walk your Talk" postcard campaign.

**Share** information with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, about violations of concern to his mandate in your respective country ([www.unhchr.ch/children/rapporteur.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/children/rapporteur.htm)).

**Send** WWSF a brief report of activities you organized on 19 November.

## **New program: Prize for prevention of child abuse activities, awarding active NGO coalition members**

**Objective:** Awarding pertinent activities and significant events focusing on prevention of child abuse; encouraging ongoing efforts to develop and increase prevention measures; and catalysing new energies.

**Prize categories:** ≥ Prize for innovative prevention activities (US\$ 3000), honouring a unique and visionary activity serving as example for other organizations; ∂ Prize for significant prevention activities (US\$ 1000), honouring perseverance, past accomplishments and facing new challenges; < Two additional prizes for specific activities (US\$ 500 each), honouring particular pertinent activities at the grassroots level.

**Award ceremony:** Prizes will be awarded on 19 November 2004 in Geneva for activities organized by coalition members in 2003.

## **Definition**

The term child abuse includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as exploitation of a child.

# **II- GENEVA ACTIVITY REPORT**

## **Round Table Program**

# **World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse**

19 November 2003

**4th year Commemoration. More than 480 NGOs mark the Day in over 90 countries**

Centre International de Conférences Genève–CICG, 17 rue de Varambè, 1211 Genève 20

Progress in preventing child abuse - Annual Review II

### **Round Table (9-12 AM)**

**Opening Address:** Elly Pradervand, WWSF - Executive Director

**International Coalition Report 2002-2003:** Laure Domeniconi, WWSF - Children's Section

**Moderator:** Brigitte Polonovski, International Council of Women - Vice President

### **Prevention in Switzerland**

Ville de Genève - Délégation à la petite enfance, Marie-Françoise de Tassigny

Federal Police Office- Swiss Coordination Unit for Cyber crime Control (CYCOS), Mauro Vignati

Action Innocence Geneva, Florence Astié

C.T.A.S. Association-Centre de consultation pour victimes d'abus sexuels, Josiane George and Elisabeth Ripoll

Télévision Suisse Romande TSR, William Heinzer

### **Prevention around the world**

STOP IT NOW - UK, John Brownlow

International Operation Child Focus, Belgium, Tessa Schmidburg

Buakhao White Lotus Foundation, Thailand, Catherine Nickbarte-Mayer

Terre des Hommes Lausanne, Bernard Boëton

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child Geneva, Denise Allen

Femmes et Enfants du Monde, France, Jacqueline Grevy and Pierre Gianni

### **Prevention in UN Agencies**

UNHCR, Christina Linnér - Refugee Children

WHO, Dr. Alexander Butchart, Department of injuries and violence prevention

### **Training Session by Stop it Now! UK (1:30-4 PM)**

Interpersonal violence prevention / Framing, Responding to, and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse as a Public Health Issue

## **Round Table Summary – 19 November 2003**

Progress in preventing child abuse - Annual Review II

### **Elly Pradervand, Executive Director, Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF - Switzerland**

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After welcoming and acknowledging panelists, sponsors and participants, and expressing regrets of the last minute cancellation by the Conférence des Evêques Suisses, Elly Pradervand reminded participants that the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse was launched in 2000 in response to an article published in the Swiss daily "Le Temps", announcing the launch of an "International Day for pedophilia - 25 April" on the Internet.

Four years after launching the World Day, and thanks to the large WWSF network, 500 organizations from over 100 countries now mark the World Day and participate in the creation of a culture of prevention of child abuse by organizing activities and events on 19 November.

In Geneva, for the second year, WWSF organized a Round Table on the theme "Progress in preventing child abuse – Annual review".

### **Laure Domeniconi, Children's Section Coordinator, WWSF - Switzerland**

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Presenting examples of NGO activities marking the World Day, Laure Domeniconi mentioned some of the ambitious programs organized on 19 November: i.e. Proclamation by the Mayor of Los Angeles of 19 November 2003 as World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse in the city of Los Angeles, in response to an invitation sent by the International Child Abuse Network - yesICAN; Declaration by the Government of Costa Rica to proclaim 19 November a National Day for Prevention of Child Abuse; Dissemination in many countries of prevention programs in schools and local communities; Insertion of the World Day in school calendars; Creation of national coalitions for prevention of child abuse, etc.

Local and national activities and events not only inform and sensitise the population on the issue of child abuse but focus primarily on prevention measures. WWSF notices a real commitment by coalition members, which include organizations for parents, children and schools, and associations of local and national authorities, etc., to mark the World Day and take a stand for effective prevention programs.

Thanks to the many reports received from NGO coalition members, WWSF can monitor prevention activities around the world and publish an annual impact report which is available upon request and on Internet ([www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)).

### **Marie-Françoise de Tassigny, Chief of the Délégation à la petite enfance, City of Geneva - Switzerland**

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Madame de Tassigny first presented a definition of prevention: a series of measures aiming at avoiding accidents, diseases to appear or worsen, and finding means to limit repercussion. This definition focuses on risk factors and has an added value of physical and psychological health promotion. That is the reason why the community has to take action in favor of children's and adults' health, and for all concerned actors to be more aware and able to reconcile global and individual aspects.

Prevention requires that people become more knowledgeable and open-minded. It is absolutely vital that child caregivers be attentive to the stages a child goes through (any signs of distress, etc.). To carry out preventive socio-educational programs, it is necessary that the people involved devote enough time to examining the situation.

In Geneva, there are several departments that take action at different stages of a child's development. However, and unfortunately, there is often duplication. There are many complex situations, which illustrate the lack of coordination and sometimes efface the main actor who is sincerely concerned.

Madame de Tassigny asked what measures can be taken to avoid competition between services offered by too many professionals. In a community, developing psycho-social systems of quality must take into consideration that there can be dysfunctional support systems. According to Mrs. de Tassigny, new possibilities occur by strengthening cooperation. To achieve this, everyone should pass on information and work on the problem.

## **Mauro Vignati, Federal Police Office / Swiss Coordination Unit for Cyber crime Control (CYCOS) - Switzerland**

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The Swiss Coordination Unit for Cyber crime Control (CYCOS) is the central office where persons can report suspect Internet subject matter including hardcore pornography (sexual acts with children, animals, human excrement or acts of violence); depiction of violence; extremism and racism.

Operational since January 2003, the Coordination Unit provides support to the Confederation and Cantons in the following three areas:

**Monitoring:** Investigations on the Internet to identify criminal misuse of the Internet and initial processing of reports regarding suspect Internet subject matter.

**Clearing:** Verification whether the suspect subject matter constitutes a criminal offence, coordination with ongoing proceedings and referral of the case to the relevant prosecution authorities at home and abroad.

**Analysis:** Nationwide analysis of cyber crime. Ongoing analysis of the situation in Switzerland, description of universal criminal techniques and methods, statistics and trends.

Cyber crime consists mainly of spams, hard pornography (essentially pedo pornography), and general pornography. In May 2003, CYCOS started an active research and found more and more illegal materials: films, photos, audiotapes, etc. People exchange this kind of material through files and chat rooms where adults try to contact children. Their titles often indicate that the material is pornographic.

Only 1/4 of identified cases were transmitted to the Canton of Geneva. Most other cases concern big cantons like Zurich and Bern.

## **Florence Astié, Psychologist and responsible for prevention in schools, Action Innocence Genève - Switzerland**

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Action Innocence Genève is involved in preventing risks linked to the use of the Internet. Its work involves information campaigns for the general public; prevention sessions in private and public schools; distribution of prevention support materials (a mouse pad with "10 commandments for a young internaut"); cooperation with political authorities to help advance legislation on Internet crime involving Internet professionals, especially Internet providers, in order to prevent children's unlimited access to any kind of material on the Internet.

The Association is the first in Switzerland to have developed abuse prevention programs for use of the Internet in schools. The program, called "Surfing with care on the Internet", was launched in January 2002 in nearly 300 classrooms (Canton of Geneva and Vaud and in Monaco). The Association focuses on children aged 8 to 15 (target age 10 to 12). The goal of this program is to encourage children to be wary when they surf the Net. Presentations generally last 45 to 90 minutes, are interactive, and improve the sharing of experiences with children. The Association also tries to classify the advantages and disadvantages of Internet. The main message to get across to children is "Be careful, you don't know who is behind the screen".

## **Josiane George, President, Psychologist FSP & Elisabeth Ripoll, Therapist, C.T.A.S. Association – Centre de consultation pour les victimes d'abus sexuels - Switzerland**

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The C.T.A.S. Association provides not only specialized help to sexually abused children, adolescents and adults but also to their relatives. The Association also provides support and information to concerned professionals.

Since 2003, C.T.A.S. has developed a program for adolescent sexual abusers, which includes prevention of second or subsequent offences, and accompanies abusers for the purpose of getting to know them better and for improving therapeutic measures to be put in place. The program also focuses on parents, as their attitude will greatly influence how adolescents participate in the therapy.

The program for adolescent sexual abusers is a one-year program, in closed groups, with clear objectives to be reached. The Association tries to cooperate whenever possible with social workers and the individual psychologist, when there is one, to avoid competition between services and therapists.

Concerning prevention of child abuse, the Association distributes posters in buses informing boys and girls that they do not have to remain silent and that help is available.

## **William Heinzer, Journalist at the Television Suisse Romande TSR - Switzerland**

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W. Heinzer, a journalist for thirty years, discovered four years ago the meaning of pedo criminality by doing an inquiry for television. He came upon a CD discovered by a Belgian association at the home of a pedophile (in connection with the Dutroux scandal). His investigation involved verification of what the victim testified by analyzing the photographs. The CD contained 15'000 pictures of raped and tortured children and a sodomized baby with a man laughing while carrying out his act. "Once you've seen this, you change and you want to fight against such a reality", he said.

In another case (Landslide Productions, Texas), W. Heinzer went on the Internet and reported on what he found on the Swiss Romande TV News. After this program, a debate was organized to evaluate whether it is advisable to show such pictures or whether they should protect the dignity of the victims. The group decided to present images in a blurred fashion. But the absence of pictures and the impossibility to simply describe the images on TV presents a communication problem not only for the public for whom pedo criminality is something far removed, but also for those who try to fight against an industry generating millions of dollars and using thousands of abused children.

William Heinzer has no solution but wanted to present the problem of communication on TV. He hopes that other people experience what he experienced and have their perception changed.

## **John Brownlow, Central Co-ordinator, STOP IT NOW ! UK & Ireland**

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Mr. Brownlow talked about a new initiative that started in the United States and which he introduced to England. The key features of **Stop it Now!** are preventing sexual abuse of children via the promotion of a public health approach. **By raising public awareness, Stop it Now! seeks to place the responsibility for preventing abuse on adults rather than children and targets three key groups:**

**Adults** who have abused or are thinking about abusing a child, to encourage them to recognize their behaviour as abusive and to seek help to change

**Family and friends** of abusers to help them recognize the signs of abusive behaviour and seek advice about what action to take

**Parents** of children and young people who sexually abuse other children to recognize the signs and to seek help.

Through media and community activities, Stop it Now! has demonstrated that adults can be reached and provided with information to build awareness and motivate action. In its first year, the telephone Help line in the UK has taken more than 800 calls.

Stop it Now! UK & Ireland has produced a range of information and publicity materials and is developing a network of projects that are working with the media to introduce the key messages of Stop it Now! to local communities.

Mr. Brownlow expanded his presentation at the afternoon training workshop on "Interpersonal prevention programs, framing, responding to and preventing child sexual abuse as a public health issue" on 19 November in Geneva.

## **Tessa Schmidburg, Manager of the International Development for Child Focus and General Secretary of the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children - Belgium**

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The European Centre for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children, operating under the name of Child Focus, acts on both the national and international level to provide active support in the investigation of disappearance, i.e. running away, abduction or sexual exploitation of children (child prostitution, pedo pornography on the Internet, non accompanied children).

To combat child sexual exploitation the Centre launched in March 2000 a prevention campaign against child pornography on the Internet: "Surf safe" to alert children (target group 10 to 13) about the potential dangers of the Internet. After two years of experience, Child Focus decided to create a specific web site "Child Focus-Net-Alert" and a specific communication campaign "The Click safe Campaign" to eliminate child pornography from the Internet and protect young people from harmful and illegal use of the Internet.

For the protection of children, integrated to a large degree in daily education programs, Child Focus offers to pupils in primary schools a small ruler reminding them of simple safety rules: "Mes Tibitrucs", from Tibi, the Child Focus mascot.

Finally, Child Focus launched in 2002, an International Missing Children's Day on 25 May. A 'forget me not' flower is given to commemorate all disappeared children and encourage parents of missing children with a message of hope and solidarity. Tessa Schmidburg hopes that the Day will be commemorate in Switzerland in 2004.

## **Catherine Nickbarte, President/Founder of Buakhao White Lotus Foundation (Thailand), Geneva - Switzerland**

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Buakhao White Lotus Foundation is involved in prevention of child abuse since 1993. It offers social, medical and legal support to children caught in prostitution and forced labour networks. All children are protected, helped and followed until they are out of danger. For the past ten years the Foundation educated 150 children per year on average. According to Ms. Nickbarte, education is the best way to prevent child prostitution, abduction, forced labour, ill-treatment and physical abuse.

Ms. Nickbarte thinks that respect is the key word. The solution is education for respect. Respect for oneself and respect for each other. She doesn't understand how one can give up self-respect and sexually abuse babies or children. She is very much concerned about the scope of the problem and would like to launch a campaign to promote respect in Switzerland.

## **Bernard Boëton, Responsible for the Rights of the Child program, Foundation Terre des hommes Lausanne - Switzerland**

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Prevention of child sexual exploitation has always been a centre of interest for Terre des Hommes (Tdh): launch in the 80s of a Help line "SOS Enfants"; program for prevention of sexual tourism in collaboration with travel agencies; and legal procedures. At the moment, and in reaction to pedophile activities by one of its delegates in Ethiopia, Tdh prioritizes prevention of pedophilia in associations and institutions dealing with children. Personnel working for or involved with Tdh must sign before starting an assignment a Code of Conduct and an individual Declaration, which have become an integral part of all work contracts. NGO partners with Tdh must also sign the Code of conduct or elaborate its own Code with reference to the principles established by Tdh and adapted to their activities.

According to Mr. Boëton, the infiltration by pedophiles in humanitarian NGOs is a recent phenomenon and could be connected, especially in European countries, to the increase of criminalization and public awareness raising. Some pedophiles try to be hired to work abroad or become sponsors with the purpose of being in contact with children abroad. For example, a NGO had to establish a Code of Conduct for donors.

Bernard Boëton mentioned the fact that in the media, and in some magazines in particular, there are arguments in favour of or against pedophilia as if these two opinions were equitable. He insisted on the fact that they are not and awaits a law that prohibits promotion of child sexual exploitation similar to the law punishing racist attitudes and statements.

## **Denise Allen, Liaison Officer with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child - Geneva, Switzerland**

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A consequence of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) coming into force is the creation of a growing child rights community worldwide. This community has continued to play a central role in combating violations of children's rights and promoting change in line with the CRC. Denise Allen's presentation illustrated and highlighted some of the concrete work that has been done by national coalitions in this regard.

The NGO group, starting in 1993, has taken very seriously the question of exploitation of children. 67 international and national organizations form part of a network and in many countries national networks are working to combat child pornography and all forms of exploitation against children, and promote children's rights. About 100 national child rights networks are working directly or on behalf of children. The NGO group is very pleased to be involved in this kind of work and is happy that WWSF, member of the NGO group for the CRC, promotes prevention of exploitation of children.

The NGO group for the CRC recently produced a publication, "International mechanisms, a guide to national NGOs to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse", introducing international instruments to NGOs working to combat child abuse.

## **Jacqueline Grévy, President Femmes et Enfants du Monde - France**

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Before introducing Mr. Gioanni, Mrs. Grévy insisted on the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and called on all actors who work for children, including the media, to push governments to respect and comply with the Convention. According to Mrs. Grévy, hope exists, demonstrated by increased consciousness in our occidental

countries and while there seems to be a lack of concern, there is also a lot of interest for the well being of children. She also mentioned a future European Convention that will consider children as full citizens.

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### **Pierre Giovanni, Barrister, Expert in child rights, Femmes et Enfants du Monde - France**

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Mr. Giovanni talked about harmonization of national and international laws and regulations concerning children. There exists a catalogue of the wide range of international rules. According to him, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has to be the very basis of all national legislation, which inspires the legislator, is interpreted nationally, and sometimes rejected. However, very often, the judges refer to the spirit of the UN Convention. In some cases three international Conventions and a national rule are mentioned in one legal case. It is not easy to know which legislation one should apply. But in spite of an apparent contradiction, he thinks that there is an internal coherence. There seems to be no legal void and even if a lawyer in France does not have the right to ask a child to testify, other means can be used to hear a child's testimony. Mr. Giovanni is optimistic and feels that national and international instruments complement each-other.

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### **Christina Linnér, Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children, UNHCR - Geneva, Switzerland**

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Christina Linnér shared UNHCR's activities concerning refugee children, in particular some recent developments in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, which resulted in progress in some key areas: **Revised Guidelines** for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons have been developed in consultation with a range of UNHCR's partners. **A Code of Conduct**, which addresses appropriate behavior by UNHCR staff towards children was issued in September 2002. Facilitation sessions on the meaning and application of this code have subsequently been organized in most UNHCR offices worldwide. A newly issued Bulletin of the Secretary-General on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse came into force on 15 October 2003 and is legally binding for all UN staff as well as for UN forces conducting operations under UN command and control.

**UNHCR's capacity** to investigate alleged sexual and gender-based violence has been strengthened.

As of 2003, new clauses were introduced in UNHCR's agreements with implementing partners according to which all staff of partners are bound by the principles relating to standards of behavior developed by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises (2002).

Concerted collaboration between all stakeholders, a "zero tolerance" attitude of all concerned, a strengthened role and duties of managers, and sustained focus on these issues (she endorsed the persistence of Ms. Pradervand to convene annual Review sessions regarding progress in child abuse prevention), are among the prerequisites for ensuring better protection of refugee – and other children against sexual exploitation, abuse and violence.

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### **Dr. A. Butchart, Coordinator in the Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention, World Health Organization WHO - Geneva, Switzerland**

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Dr. Butchart wanted to make participants aware of the tools that WHO has been producing over the past years for violence prevention and the implication in child abuse prevention in particular.

**A World Report on Violence and Health**, which advocates the Public Health approach to prevention. Report recommendations are supported by a World Health Assembly Resolution through which all 199 Member States commit themselves to increase their activities for violence prevention. The report has several chapters dealing with different types of violence (mostly against children). For each type of violence and in each chapter the report gives the latest available information about the size of the problem, the risk factors, and what is being done to be effective in preventing these problems.

**A Global campaign for violence prevention** to raise awareness about the public health dimension of the problem of violence and what public health can do to prevent it. It also aims to advocate for increasing human and financial resources for prevention.

**Some posters** to make people more aware of the problem, dealing with child abuse and neglect but also with all the other forms of violence. Information is freely available on the website of the WHO Department of injuries and violence prevention.

## Training Session – 19 November 2003

### **“Interpersonal prevention programs, framing, responding to, and preventing child sexual abuse as a public health issue” by John Brownlow, Director - STOP IT NOW! (UK)**

*24 people attended the afternoon training session. A follow-up meeting is planned in 2004*

Child sexual abuse only came up as a real issue for professionals as of the 1980s. Today, it is estimated that 75% of cases are not reported, and that less than 5% of cases are reported to the authorities. It is extremely difficult for people to be able to recognize that abuse might be happening in their own family. It represents a major step for a child to even speak about this, and an enormous one for the family to acknowledge it, and especially ACT on this information. This is due to the fact that, as distinct from other forms of abuse (e.g.- child labor) sexual abuse is secretive.

Stop it Now! was founded in the USA in 1993 by a woman who was abused between 12 and 16 by her own father. Concerned by the very low level of public concern with the issue, she created Stop it Now! to raise the level of public information/concern, and also alert professionals. Started in Vermont, with presently offshoots in Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Georgia, Stop it Now! had a significant impact on the Centre for Disease Control of Atlanta (CDC).

Treatment of sexual offenders in groups proves to be efficient, just as for alcoholics. In the States, sex offenders meet three times a week. Like alcoholics and people on drugs, sex offenders are compulsive in their behavior. Handling sex offenders starts with a detailed examination of what the offender did. Offenders start by fantasizing, then move into abuse, feel bad about it, then get back to abusing to feel better... and the cycle continues.

It is essential, the speaker stated, to get the offender to REALLY UNDERSTAND what he has done to the child. Sexual abuse in their childhood reported by sex offenders tends to be significantly exaggerated by the latter, as it is often a means of justifying their own deviant behavior. Only a minority have been abused. (The exact percentage is probably impossible to assess).

It is NOT useful to make distinctions between minor and major sexual abuse, because a very minor abuse by a father can be infinitely more devastating on some than “major” offences by a person with no relationship to the child.

US specialist David Finkelhor mentions 4 levels (hurdles) that need to be activated or overcome to abuse a child:

- Motivation: the offender needs to be impelled by something to perpetrate abuse
- Internal inhibitors: the conscience, inner judge or moral law
- External protectors: the abuser will need to somehow disarm their suspicion. Often, this will be done by making himself indispensable, by being especially nice with the child or family (“what a nice guy he is”, “he’s always ready to help and available”), called “grooming” behavior
- Finally, the child’s resistance needs to be overcome.

Most programs until now have aimed at step 4 (teaching the child to defend himself or herself).

Stop it Now! aims at hurdle three, i.e. reinforcing the protective adults around the child with information about “grooming” behavior. It aims adults, with the view of helping them see/become aware of inappropriate behaviour among people close to them.

The Stop it Now! Help line is to help the caller recognize if his worries about someone (including himself) are justified or not. Youngest caller to date was 18 years old. Short-term prison sentences are more harmful than helpful because sex offenders mix with other sex offenders and get reinforced in their tendencies. Long-term community sentences are better because offenders have the possibility of receiving psychological treatment.

John Brownlow developed at length the case of a father who masturbated himself in front of his step-daughter. The term “pedophile” has a clinical meaning, it means someone who loves/likes children, which is why Stop it Now! prefers the term sexual abuser although the popular press has come to use the term with criminal connotation and horrendous, sinful behavior as to banish all possible discussion. Hence the need to develop a new language to speak about sex and child sexual abuse, common to professionals, and that can be understood by the public.

A last issue covered by the speaker concerned amnesia. Therapists have put forward the idea that many adults block out all memories of abuse, with the result that some therapists have planted the idea of sexual abuse in all their patients!

(= “False memory” syndrome).