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Stop It Now!

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

NEWS

October 2006

Going global with prevention

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Going global



Stop It Now!'s unique approach of injecting a sense of hope into discussions about sexual abuse prevention continues to attract interest from child advocates around the world.

On November 3, Stop It Now! Field Development Director, Sarita Hudson, will help launch of **Stop It Now! Australia**. And last month, a leading sexual abuse expert from **Israel** visited Now! National for two days to learn more about what's involved in establishing a Stop It Now! program.

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the October issue of [Stop It Now! NEWS](#), which highlights the issue of child sexual abuse as a global problem - and as an international opportunity for Stop It Now!.

October is also [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#). At Stop It Now! we are keenly aware of the many factors undermine healthy families and our best efforts to help keep children safe. Our national Helpline regularly helps callers whose efforts to keep children safe also involve managing the threat of intimate partner violence. Stop It Now! believes firmly that work across all prevention fields can and must be a part of our collective strategy to prevent all forms of violence.

We rely on the support of individual donors to spread and deepen our work. Please consider making an investment in prevention - or setting up a recurring monthly donation. You can [donate online here](#).

Thank you for your support.

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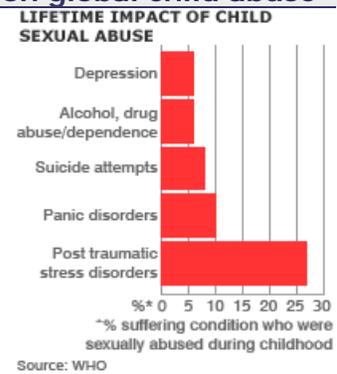
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NEW! Landmark UN report on global child abuse

The need for a positive prevention message that can work across boundaries and cultures was highlighted in two recent United Nations report about the impact of violence on children and women.

The first UN study on global violence against children

issued this month reveals a shocking picture of worldwide child abuse. The four year [Study on Violence against Children](#) was commissioned by the UN Secretary-General and focused on twenty- one less-industrialized countries. The report estimates that 150 million girls and 73 million boys experienced forced sexual intercourse or sexual violence involving touch in 2002. These numbers represent 14 percent of the world's girl population, and 7 percent of the boy population, respectively. The study also found that up to 36% of women and 29% of men reported being sexually victimized during childhood.



Another UN report launched during the same week is an in-depth study of global violence against women. It confirms that physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence against women is widespread in every country. The lives of at least one in three women are touched by some form of violence - with intimate partner violence reported as the most common. The two reports summarize existing research on the extent, prevalence, and wide-reaching consequences of all types of violence against women and children, and demonstrate how violence cuts across culture, class, education, income, and ethnic origin. The reports are a result of a collaborative effort and provide the most detailed global information to date about violence against women and children. Together, they are clear that such violence is intolerable, unjustifiable, and a violation of human rights.

"After the emancipation of the workers in the 19th Century, the emancipation of the women in the 20th Century, I think that this is the moment to recognize children as being protected by rights, as full citizens, and not as mini-human beings or the property of their families," said the report's author, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro.

The report includes a list of recommendations including the creation of national commissioners to prevent violence against children and national legal frameworks to protect children. While the authors were encouraged by the participation of 135 governments worldwide, it

recognizes that one of the greatest challenges is changing a social mindset that tacitly accepts violence towards minors.

Unless we are investing adequately in protecting children from initial sexual harm, we are tacitly accepting sexual violence toward children.

Read BBC (UK) press coverage of the report [here](#)

[Read the UN Study on Violence against Children](#)

Leading Israeli treatment provider visits Now!



Last month Stop It Now! hosted another leader of prevention from another part of the world – Israel. Sheri Oz, MSc, who is considered one of Israel's top experts in the area of child sexual abuse, spent two days in late September visiting with Now! National staff. Sherri's visit was part of her continuing effort to familiarize herself with the philosophy and functioning of Stop It Now! -- and to explore how Stop It Now!'s model might work in Israel. During her visit Stop It Now! hosted local board members, supporters and treatment providers for a noon luncheon and presentation/discussion.

Oz, is Founder and Director of [Machon Eitan](#), a private clinic for the treatment of sexual trauma survivors and their families, located in Kiryat Mostzkin in northern Israel. Sherri is one of the few therapists working with individuals who have abused or are at risk to abuse a child. She is the author, along with Sarah Jane- Ogiers, of *Overcoming Childhood Sexual Trauma - A Guide to Breaking Through the Wall of Fear for Practitioners and Survivors* ([Haworth Press](#))

We were particularly impressed by the flexibility of Israeli law that allows treatment providers to work with families -- including sexual abuse victims, non-offending members of the family and the person who offended -- to find solutions that balance the need for criminal accountability with the complex emotional needs of the family.

Sherri can be contacted by email at ozsheri@netvision.net.il

Can a Stop It Now! Israel be far off in the future?

[Learn more about Machon Eitan](#)



Stop It Now!'s Field Development Director, Sarita Hudson, has just landed in Australia to help launch of Stop It Now! Australia. Sarita will be the featured speaker at the launch of Stop It Now! Australia, to be held during the final day of the 4th

Biennial conference of Australia New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers's ([ANZATSA](#)) in Gold Coast, Queensland. The theme for conference is "Preventing sex crime: from evidence and explanation to policy and practice." Stop It Now! will participate in the conference poster session and Sarita will address the mid-day launch of Stop It Now! Australia, speaking about the strengths of Stop It Now!'s community-based model.

Stop It Now! Australia will be guided by a National Steering Committee, and each state will have its own Advisory Body. [Phoenix House](#), a community-based treatment and prevention program in Bundaberg, Queensland, is sponsoring the national launch of [Stop It Now! Australia](#). According to Kathy Prentice of Phoenix House, "One of the aims is to have a Stop It Now! State branch in all States of Australia by 2010! Currently we have interest from Western Australia through Safecare, and also New South Wales and Victoria."

In addition to the Australia national launch at ANZATSA and the Queensland state launch in Bundaberg (Nov. 6), Sarita will present workshops in Bundaberg for practitioner and community audiences. The following week a series of Stop It Now! events is being organized in Perth, Western Australia by a local coalition including Safecare, a treatment provider organization. Perth is currently embroiled in a statewide controversy because Western Australia does not have a mandated reporting law.

[Find out more about Phoenix House](#)

Thank you

Thank you to everyone that responded generously to our early Fall Appeal. Your contributions are helping adults, families and communities to protect children from sexual abuse - and will have a lasting, positive impact on the health of families and the safety of communities everywhere.



We steward your donations with the utmost care. Stop It Now! is a qualified member of Independent Charities of America (ICA), authorized to display the ICA Seal of Excellence. This indicates that Stop It Now! has undergone a rigorous independent review to certify, document and demonstrate that it

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