



Forum: United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund

Issue: Prohibiting Sexual Abuse Towards Children

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Overview

Child sexual abuse, also known as child molestation, refers to a form of child mistreatment involving sexual activities. It is sometimes abbreviated into CSA which can be defined as “a sexual act or communication that results in harm to a child.” As a child is not able to offer consent to any kind of sexual activity, once an adult or older adolescent uses a child for erotism, it is determined as sexual abuse. Accompanies the gains of prominent public attention, Child sexual abuse has become one of the most high-profile crime in the past few decades. While the use of sexual intention of children by adults continuously existed throughout history, global concerns in prevention have fluctuated. Statistics indicate merciless facts: there is a one-fifth girl and one-twentieth boys are victims of child sexual abuse, 16% of youth ages 14~17 in the U.S. had been sexually abused in one year, regarding the entire lifespan there are 28% of U.S. youth ages had confronted sexual molestation. In 2013, the WHO approximate that almost 18 million children had experienced sexual Abuse in Europe. In Asia, the child sexual abuse cases are mainly contributed by India. The “Asian Center for Human Rights” reported a total of 43338 cases of the rape of minors, which has increase for more than 3 times compare with 2113 cases in 2001 and 7112 cases in 2011. In North America, it is reported by the official government that over700 million children are victims of violence and abuse each year. In Africa, one out of three male or female was at risk of sexual abuse before reaching adolescence. Not only is the frequency worth known, but the consequences also show formidable weightiness. Authorized reports and global news have alarmed that sexual assault in



childhood could lead to dreadful effects that would last a lifetime and span generations, it would also result in mournful impacts on the whole family. According to international reports, most of the sexual abuse crimes are committed by people that are known to the victim. The United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund (written as UNICEF in the following report) has established several prohibitions toward sexual abuse and is still holding profound attention to consistently supplement measures to complete the protective scheme.



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Perpetrators

It is a terrifying fact that the majority of perpetrators are familiar or at least, know the victims. Up to 93 percent of sufferers under 18 years old know the abuser.

Perpetrators vary from ages thus it is impossible to categorize them into a single sort.



There are older siblings, classmates, family members, elders, school coaches, counselors, teachers, playmates, caretakers, or parents of another child. Any ordinary relationship could potentially lead to sexual abuse to children if the perpetrators have the intention. “[Child] sexual abuse is the result of abusive behavior that takes advantage of a child’s vulnerability and is in no way related to the sexual orientation of the abusive person.” according to “Myths and Facts About Male Sexual Abuse and Assault”. To prevent victims from spoiling the activity out, perpetrators would use a number of tactics to manipulate them. In some cases, abusers would use their mighty power and exalted position to coerce or intimidate children from confessing to others, they would possibly indoctrinate them this is a regular activity and participants often enjoy it. In other cases, perpetrators could utilize children’s sense of shame and abashment to keep the secret from exposure. They could pressurize children by twisting their understanding of virginity which perpetrators sometimes talk in this way, “If you told your mom about this, she will beat you and everyone will know that you are sordid.” Therefore, victims would be afflicted from guilty and self-accusation that children might be inclined to believe they are the foremost reason for their suffers. Above all, it is concluded that child sexual abuse is not only a physical contravention but also a violation of trust and authority.

Consequences

The immediate psychological consequences of child sexual abuse appear to be: shock, fear, anxiety, nervousness, guilt, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, denial, confusion, withdrawal, isolation, and grief. The symptoms of PTSD are the most conspicuous ones which are categorized into three groups: Re-experiencing symptoms, avoidance, and hyperarousal. Re-experiencing symptoms, meaning as same as its denotation, refers to the manifestation of the person relives the trauma over and over through flashbacks or nightmares. Avoidance indicates the deliberate



evasion or subconscious evasion of thoughts, feelings, objects or situations that are reminders of the excruciate experience. The occurrence of avoidance also reveals anti-socialism, difficulty remembering events and affectional numbness. The manifestation hyperarousal, include always on alert, hyper-vigilant even safety is guaranteed and insomnia. The effects of child sexual abuse are formidable, not only did victims are mortified during and after the occurrence, but survivors also suffered from sorrows of sequela. For groups who experienced sexual abuse as children, they may encounter and afflicted form a range of long-term effects. First of all, victims might feel guilty about not stopping the abuse although it is not their fault and they are not capable of. They might even blame themselves for experiencing physical pleasure which is the early phase of depression. Moreover, survivors might be resistant to intimacy since it is possible that their first experiences with sex came as a result of the compelling activity. Most survivors encounter flashbacks of disquieting and distressing memories while engaging in or trying to attempt sexual activities, even though the events happened base on consensual and among romance ambience. Setting boundaries could be a strenuous process that struggled them from feeling safe in a relationship. Survivors may also make their ways difficultly with low self-esteem which possibly results from negative, disparaging and insulting messages received from the abusers since their safety is violated and offended. Low self-esteem can impact numerous aspects of human life such as relationships, schooling, careers, communication, and even health condition. As an adult survivor, they might have made efforts several times to pour out all the difficulties that happened on them however, they lost the ability to trust anyone. Articles from the US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health identified that the emotional bond between child victims and the perpetrator is similar to that of the potent bidirectional relationship central to Stockholm Syndrome as described by Graham(1994). Characteristics of Stockholm Syndrome are recognized which appear to affect their

exposure of perpetrators for long while.



Warning signs



Among all sorts of crimes, child sexual abuse is one of them that is almost inevitable since there is no such cause or any motivation. The perpetrators in most cases are someone familiar that parents may know or trust for a long period hence it is difficult to notice. To forestall the occurrence, there exist some possible signs.

Physical

If there are bleeding, bruises, or swelling genital area, parents should be aware of the possibility of abuse. If there are bloody, torn or stained underclothes, it may also be a sign of sexual abuse. Sometimes when children felt difficulty sitting or walking or standing in a twisted position, parents should keep in mind and ask them the reason. When parents discovered frequent urinary or yeast infections, they should realize anomalies happened.

Behavior

Changes in regular behaviors are also worth-noticed. For example, habits of hygiene. If children refused to bathe or were bathing excessively, it could imply that someone has done something makes them felt ashamed. If children appeared to develop phobias, they might have confronted occurrences that terrified them, especially when they are petrified and eluded of body contact. A prevailing sign of sexual abuse is the expression of depression and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, if members, mostly adolescents express their thought of suicidal then parents must pay high-strength attention. Besides, if children display a drastic drop in grade or sudden growth of absence, awareness from parents is required. Once children exhibit bizarre curiosity or knowledge of sexuality, it may because someone forestall indoctrinate them. Most significant, the symptom of self-harm could reveal their inner thinking that they may believe themselves are not pure but damaged.

Statutory measures



China

Beginning from the Song Dynasty, proceeding intercourse with young girls are adjudicated as rape. For the following dynasties, China has highly regarded child sexual abuse as a severe crime and has involved draconian sanctions in legal institutions. Most of the criminals are executed from the Qing Dynasty and at the end of the Dynasty, sexually assaulting young girls and young boys are equally adjudicated. After the Qing Dynasty has perished and before the PRC is founded, China has stipulated that people under 16 years old cannot be sexually active, as a result, of the sexual activity happened, no matter the motivation is voluntary or forceful, the criminal act is constituted. In the present law of the People's Republic of China, the crime of child sexual abuse refers to the behavior of molestation towards children under the age of 14. Regardless the motion is peremptory or voluntary, once the victims are under 14 years old, the activity is considered violating the law. In the HongKong region, conducting intercourse with a female under 16 years old is defined as crime base on the "Criminal Ordinance" since 1978. The legislature also prohibited the propagation of child pornography.

Japan

Before the parliament banned child pornography, there still exist companies that produced young boys 'pornography. In 1999, Japan officially forbade the spread and trade of child pornography including animations and games. According to Japan's legislature, it is legal to proceed with sexual activities with voluntary females older than 13 years old. Nonetheless, it is definitely a violation of laws to disseminate pornography involving beings under 18 years old. Papilla contact is also forbidden for people under 18 years old.

South East Asian



In Thailand and Indonesia, the trafficking of southeast Asian child prostitution is concentrated. Even though all countries in South East Asia have legislated the illegality of sexual activities involving juveniles, however, due to the cultural superstition that having sex with children can elongate people's longevity, there exist countless matured underground sex industry. The undeveloped economics is also a concern as a vital factor of why countries displaying ignorance to these traffickings, as well as the subsistence for the poor. Children settle in the impecunious families have to earn their livelihoods by engaging in sexual activities. To subsist their existence, child vagrants have to take part in those sexual industries. Accordance with the 2004th report, there were almost 800,000 child prostitutes and this phenomenon is not even improving but increasingly alarming. In Malaysia, it is patently adjudicated that proceeding sexual activities with females younger than 16 years old is illegal according to "Penal Code(Act No.574)", regardless of the given of consents.

India

The trafficking of underground children sex, trade of child labor is as developed as in South East Asia. In spite of the illegality of child trafficking and sexual activities with a juvenile, the provision of child intercourse and sexual abuse and the punishment is neither comprehensive nor stringent, leading to a prevalent, relentless and extreme circumstance. In 2006, a national survey conducted by the Institute of Social Sciences in New Delhi, India, exhibited that India is becoming one of the centers of sex tourism, especially as child sex trafficking is progressively rampant. The seaside resort Kerala and Goa are typical evidence. "Like a secret underground business, it is difficult to investigate the specific data used to estimate the size and scope of Indian child sex transactions. However, there is no doubt that the number is increasing." as reported. Children's Right specialist deemed that Thailand and Indonesia used to be a well-known spot for western pedophilia. Notwithstanding, after severe measures are taken in these countries, patrons turn their attention to South Asia.



Australia

Base on the “Crime Acts 1900” of the New South Wales, Chapter 91G, it specifies the act of forcing, inducing or allowing children under 18 years old is a violation of laws that criminals can be imprisoned up to 14 years. According to Chapter 64 of the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra), “Crimes Acts 1900”, it is an offense of law for anyone to force, induce or allow a child under 18 to commit child pornography, up to 15 years imprisonment and a fine of 1,500 Australian dollars. In terms of Chapter 63B of the Southern Australian Province's “Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935”, it violates laws for any person to induce a child under 18 to proceed child pornography with a maximum imprisonment of 12 years. In section 125E of the Northern Territory's “Criminal Code”, it is an offense of law for any person to induce a child under 18 to commit child pornography with a maximum imprisonment of 14 years.

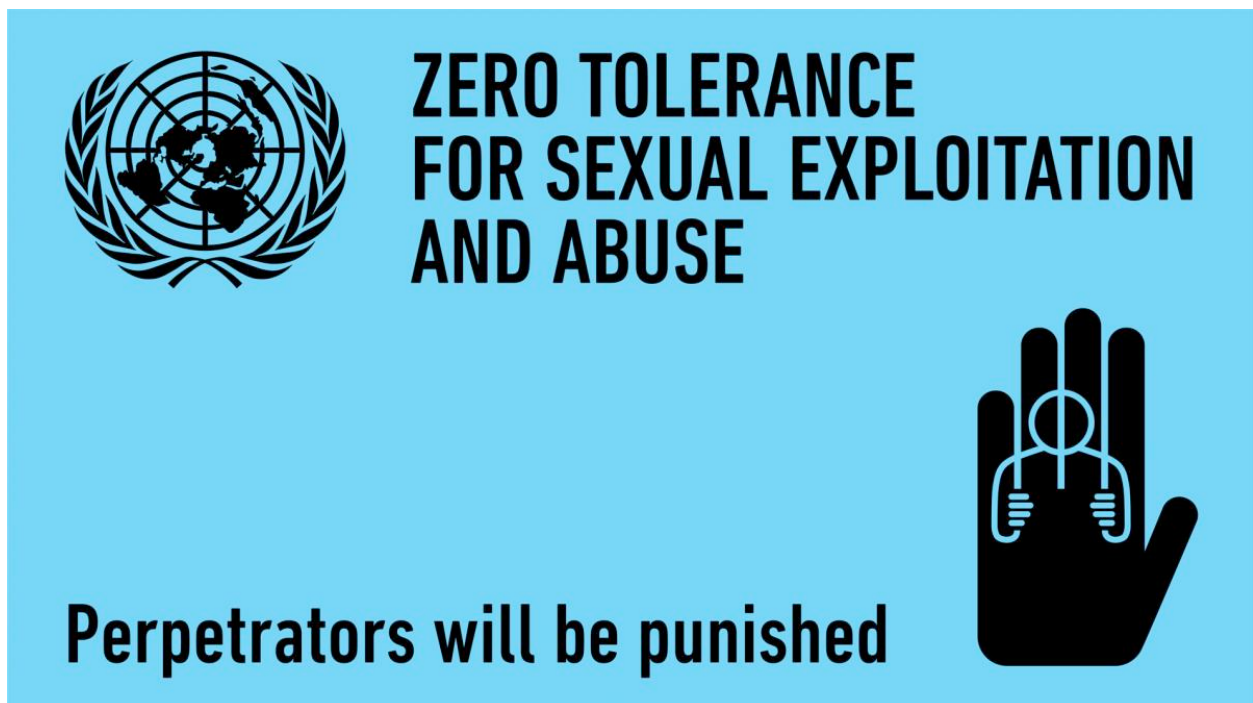


Photo documented from United Nation Website



UNICEF

A document published on the 20th of May, 2008 announced that the UNICEF had been working on this issue for times and was continuously establishing comprehensive strategies for prevention and protection. The five principal sections of the strategy include, firstly the enforcement of national protection systems. Then some changes required and cooperation needed. It also pays potent attention on the development of children's right aim to strengthen their social status.

WHO

WHO has already set a series of violence and injury prevention. As part of the ongoing WHO Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, WHO has scaled up its child maltreatment prevention activities which involved a threefold stake aiming to prevent the violence against children.

Prevention

Parents, supervisors, and counselors in all conditions should apply the following prevention strategies. First, ensure the receipt of regular and thorough training in recognition of child sexual abuse, informing procedure and ethical commitments. Second, formulate consciousness and prevention projects for students, parents, and clients. Third, request the total number of the counseling staff, parents and others that offer services to students under the auspices of certain agencies, institutions or schools to be inspected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background. Fourth, insure that there are at least two supervisors (80% of cases occurred during a single-adult-single-child situation, Darkness to Light, 2001-2005.) Fifth, be supportive to federal, states and local law enforcement combatting crimes including child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Treatment



Counselors have to be all set to handle at least two groups of child sexual abuse clients: victims and perpetrators. Treatment aspects for victims mainly comprise by rage, trust issues, social withdrawal, emotional dissonance, dissociation, dietary disorder, self harm, PTSD, self-accuse and so on. According to reports, cognitive-behavioral approaches could effectively “reduce the impact” of child sexual abuse, and to more conspicuously develop children’s knowledge of body safety skills rather than supportive therapy. Despite the obtain of treatment, among child victims, a comparatively minor groups of them receive counseling services.

Key terms

Pedophilia

Pedophilia, a psychotic disorder that adults or older adolescents experience exclusive or initial sexual attraction to prepubescent children.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation (of children)

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a transaction that require the sexual exploitation of a child, for example, prostitution, pornography, sales and trafficking. It is quite possible for CSEC to involve coercion and violence to children, commercial exploitation forced labor, contemporary slavery.

Criminal Legal System/Criminal Justice

Criminal justice is the conveyance of justice to people committed crimes while the system is the sets of government agencies and the institutions.

Intimate Violence

Violence committed by someone known to the victim (as opposed to violence perpetrated by a stranger.)



Mandated Reporting

In the United States, every state has established certain laws that require people to inform and report concerns of child abuse or ignorance of local child protective services.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

A mental health condition triggered by a terrifying event(s). Symptoms are generally grouped into three categories: intrusive memories, avoidance and numbing, and increased anxiety or heightened emotions.

Sexual Assault

Any physical contact of sexual nature without consents.

Somatic Therapy/Healing

A type of treatment from trauma that concentrates on mind-body integration by appealing to survivor's attention to areas of their bodies where pain is held.

Timeline/Important events

1946

December 11th, UNICEF was founded in New York as a member of United Nations.

1986

The Congress passes "Child Abuse Victim's Right Act", offering children a civil claim among sexual abuse cases.

1999



WHO Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention formulated guidelines which adopt the definition of child sexual abuse.

2001

The protection of children among conflicts are included in the mandates of peace operations.

2017

UN rolled out an online training module for staff and consultants on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse – developed jointly with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women.

2019

UNICEF published a document of “UNICEF’s strategy on preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment”

Major Organizations

United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund(UNICEF)

UNICEF is a international organization works in over 190 countries and territories to rescue children’s lives, to protect their rights, and to provide assistance to fulfill their potential, from early childhood to adolescence.

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO is one of the UN international organizations which works in over 150 countries, aim to direct and coordinate international health within the UN system. Their main areas of work are health systems, health through the life-course,



noncommunicable and communicable diseases, preparedness, surveillance and response, and corporate services.

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry(AACAP)

AACAP is the leading national professional medical association dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for children, adolescents, and families affected by these disorders. It is also a non-profit organization composed of over 8,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists and other interested physicians. Its members actively research, evaluate, diagnose, and treat psychiatric disorders and pride themselves on giving direction to and responding quickly to new developments in addressing the health care needs of children and their families.

National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)

NSVRC is a leading nonprofit organization which provide information and tools to prevent and coping sexual violence. It also cooperate with media to promote informed reporting. Every April, this organization hold Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a campaign aim to education and activate the public in addressing this prevailing issue.

Possible Solutions

The UN has been facing this issue for decades that it has came up with some approach in order to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse. For instance, UNICEF offices raise an alert of all allegations of sexual maltreatment of Children and related personnel immediately as a matter of standard procedure. Besides, UNICEF and its partners have taken steps to strengthen and conduct assistance and support to victims, including medical care, psychosocial support and a safety plan to address risks to victims and witnesses. The organization has also created several contracts, agreements and recruitments contribute to the prohibition of



child sexual abuse. Therefore, for delegates to tackle with this issue, the following key points are necessarily required. First of all, raising cognition of the unacceptability of child sexual abuse and advocating the notion that preventing child sexual abuse is all beings' responsibility. For most Less Economically Developed Countries (abbreviated as LEDCs), child sex trafficking is acknowledged as a common commercial transaction. When delegates are drafting resolutions, it is profound for them to include the difference solutions between LEDCs and MEDCs. Besides, there is no doubt that the development of awareness of parents and other caregivers is vital. Moreover, enlightening the public and policymakers about the fact that child sexual abuse is an obligational urgency. Furthermore, stringently assessing and enforcing existing programs for preventing child sexual abuse. Always improving the protective system of child sexuality and ensure the privacy that victims reveal during therapies will never confront disclosure. Last but not least, encouraging mental health services to be available to all affected children.

Important documents/Passed solutions

Resolution 2272(2016) adopted by the Security Council at its 7643rd meeting, on 11 March 2016, on topic "Sexual Exploitation and Abuse".

Resolution 71/278 adopted by the General Assembly on 10 March 2017, on topic "United Nations action on sexual exploitation and abuse".

Resolution 62/214 adopted by the General Assembly on 7 March 2008, on topic "United Nation Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel".

Resolution 62/63 adopted by the General Assembly on 8 January 2008, on topic "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on missions".



Resolution 61/267B adopted by the General Assembly on 24 August 2007, on topic “Comprehensive review of a strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations”.

Resolution 59/300 adopted by the General Assembly on 30 June 2005, on topic “Comprehensive review of a strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations”.

Several documents of “Report of the Secretary-General on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse” can be found on the United Nation website.

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