

INTERNET EXPLOITATION

THE ISSUE

The Internet has transformed the way perpetrators lure and recruit victims to sexually exploit throughout the world. With globalization quickly eroding traditional national and trade boundaries, the Internet has become a venue through which harmful exploitive practices have proliferated. We need to make the Internet safer for everyone.

DEMAND CHANGE

Everyday Actions

- 1.** Support work to help end sexual exploitation perpetrated through Craigslist. Write to the company expressing your concern about its lack of monitoring of the Adult Services section which recently replaced the Erotic Services section. If you come across an ad that looks like it is a minor who is being sexually exploited, contact the police. Join Love146's campaign to end exploitation through Craigslist by visiting its Web site: www.love146.org.
- 2.** Teach children to follow NetSmart rules (www.nchafc.org.uk) including not giving out their phone number, address, school name or picture on the Internet.
- 3.** Help teach youth to identify inappropriate internet interactions. Encourage open dialogue with children so they feel comfortable reporting any improper or uncomfortable online activity.
- 4.** If you notice exploitation of children online, call 1-800-843-5678 to report child pornography or visit www.missingkids.com to make a report.
- 5.** If you have children, consult Web sites such as ProtectKids.com and books such as "Kids Online: Protecting your Children in Cyberspace".
- 6.** Utilize WiredSafety.com, which is an online safety resource that has several resources devoted to addressing the various ways people are exploited on the Internet.

Raise Awareness

- 7.** Host a screening of the film: Traffic Control: The People's War on Internet Porn.

Advocate for Change

- 8.** Find out what your Internet service provider is doing about the issue of online exploitation, or petition them to do something about it.
- 9.** If your credit card company or internet provider is not part of the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography, petition them to join or switch to a provider that is. The coalition of credit card issuers and Internet services companies seeks to eliminate commercial child pornography by taking action on the payment systems used to fund these illegal operations. Learn more at: www.missingkids.com

Keep Learning

- 10.** Learn more about the issue. Check out these Web sites for more information:
 - Illinois Attorney General- Safeguarding Children and Internet Safety: <http://www.ag.state.il.us/children/internet.html>
 - In Hope: www.inhope.org
 - Protect Kids: www.protectkids.com
 - Wired Safely: www.wiredsafely.org

1. Raphael, J. & Shapiro, D. (2002). Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago. Center for Impact Research.