

BETTER TOGETHER

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F-11

Political and Personal Dilemmas in Rescuing Children from Online Child Sexual Abuse

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This is a very interactive, audience participation presentation where we will discuss and explore some of the political and personal dilemmas that face law enforcement in rescuing children from online child sexual abuse. Specialized law enforcement officers from around the world work with child sexual abuse images obtained from the Internet, Darknet or stored on the computers of pedophiles. The images obtained are used for victim identification, rescue, and offender apprehension. The identification methods are effective, but they can present some complicated political and personal dilemmas that need to be considered.

These dilemmas include:

- 1) Is it ever OK to post the image of an un-convicted offender in a child abuse image case while seeking public support in his/her identification?
- 2) Is it ever OK to post the image of a victim in a child abuse image case while seeking public support in his/her identification?
 - a. If yes, is publicizing the child victim's face to identify the child less psychologically damaging than having to endure the sexual abuse?
- 3) Since November of 2014, over 103 law enforcement officers have been arrested for possession, production or distribution of child pornography. Some of these were officers working in Crimes against Children units responsible for identifying and apprehending child pornography offenders.
 - a) Should law enforcement agencies be mandated to provide psychological counseling for officers working in child pornography units/task forces? If so, at what frequency should these officers be seen.
 - b) Should limits be placed on the amount of time law enforcement officers can work in child pornography units/task forces? If so, what do you feel is the maximum amount of time.

Learning Goals:

- By the end of the workshop participants will have developed an understanding of how public support has been used to identify victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse from images or videos posted on the Internet or Darknet.
- By the end of the workshop participants will understand the terrible toll working in a child pornography unit/task force has on law enforcement officers.
- By the end of the workshop participants will have faced political and personal dilemmas experienced by international law enforcement as they pertain to victim identification and rescue and offender identification and apprehension.

Detective Bob Shilling is a now retired, 36-year veteran of the Seattle Police Department. He worked for 10 years in patrol and 26 years in the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit. He spent the last three years as the head of Crimes against Children for INTERPOL in Lyon, France. During Detective Shilling's tenure at INTERPOL, he led a team and network of international investigators that identified and physically rescued 5,420 victims of sexual abuse, whose images were shared on the Internet or Darknet. He won two international awards for his work including the prestigious 2014 International Jurists Award for his lifetime achievements in protecting the rights of children. Detective Shilling is a former ATSA Board member having served five years from 2004 – 2009, and he was the recipient of the 2017 ATSA Distinguished Contribution Award.

Dr. Gerald Hover has been involved with the issues of sex and violence since 1971. He's been with Dr. Linehan's DBT research and treatment at the University of Washington since 1980. Between 1991 and 2014, Dr. Hover was with Washington State's Sex Offender Treatment Program in a myriad of capacities. He has conducted multiple trainings for ATSA, WATSA, the Department of Justice, and the National Institute of Corrections. He has consulted to the FBI, SPD, and the World Health Organization. In 2003, Dr. Hover was elected as the Chair of the Sex Offender Management Theme Group of the INTERPOL Specialists Group on Crimes against Children. He has done many trainings for INTERPOL around the world. Dr. Hover has authored numerous articles, one sourcebook and one handbook on the prevention of sexual assault.