

BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.

2020 ATSA Conference | Friday October 23 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

FR-AM-03

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IN SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse – A Global and Local Approach

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Background - The ECSA Project (Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse) is an international knowledge exchange project run by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and funded by the Oak Foundation. The ECSA website (<https://ecsa.lucyfaithfull.org>) provides brief, accessible insights into the nature of child sexual abuse as well as the people and processes involved. It uses the Preventing Child Sexual Abuse model - a public health model of prevention - to demonstrate the range of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention possibilities.

Program mission

The mission of ECSA is to help practitioners to better understand the nature of child sexual abuse in their local context, and be able to develop interventions within a strategy for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

The Toolkit

The web based toolkit guides users through the stages of collecting information, gathering community support, deciding on priorities, designing and implementing interventions and evaluating outcomes. The prevention strategy is tailored to local issues and to community strengths. The bulk of the toolkit is made up of 200+ example programmes and interventions from around the world. Each is described in a standardised template for users to browse; with references and contact details for follow-up.

Target Audience

Delegates who are interested in how they can develop a strategic response to child sexual abuse in their local area and are willing to learn from the experience of others. We foresee this being practitioners and researchers as well as policymakers. There is no requirement for previous experience in this topic.

Format

The session will provide an insight into the prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse on a global level. It will also provide details of case studies where we are supporting NGO partners in the development and implementation of a child sexual abuse prevention strategy in the areas where they operate. Delegates will be able to take part in activities that ask them to consider prevention in their local context.

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Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the nature, prevalence and theory behind child sexual abuse.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the theoretical underpinning of the Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse Project and that child sexual abuse is a preventable public health issue.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to consider strategic responses to child sexual abuse that take into account the context of their local area and take away some ways in which to implement these in their local area.

Stuart Allardyce is Director of Stop It Now! Scotland. He qualified as a social worker 20 years ago and has managed services for children affected by sexual abuse as well as services for young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour. He is the vice-chair of NOTA (National Organisation for the Treatment of Abuse) for UK and Ireland and also the chair of the NOTA practice / policy sub-committee. He is a visiting researcher at Strathclyde University and an associate of the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice. He has published widely in the field of sexual abuse prevention and is the co-author of 'Working with Children and Young People Who Have Displayed Harmful Sexual Behaviour' (Dunedin Press, 2018).

Willie Manson Following a career in the police, Willie was National Coordinator for the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Scotland (MAPPA). For the past 10 years he has worked with the child sexual abuse prevention charity, The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, initially responsible for the Upstream Project which provides tools and information to members of the public to allow them to take action to prevent child sexual abuse. Since 2017 he has been working with the Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse project (ECSA) which is funded by the Oak Foundation. This work involves supporting child sexual abuse prevention projects in Bulgaria and the Recife area of Brazil. Alongside this work in Brazil and Bulgaria Willie has been developing the ECSA website and toolkit that are designed to share best practice around the world and help practitioners identify ways to tackle child sexual abuse and how they can be applied to their local area.

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Replicating the Global Prevention Project in New York State: Insights From a New Collaborative Initiative

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New York State has many policies in place for when an offense has occurred. Research shows not only that 94% of sexual offenses are committed by first time offenders, but that the recidivism rate of sex offenders against children is lower than commonly believed (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005; Jill S. Levenson, Brannon, Fortney, & Baker, 2007; Sandler, Freeman, & Socia, 2008). Therefore, there is a gap in addressing child sexual abuse (CSA) at the origin, namely with those at risk to engage in CSA behaviors (J. S. Levenson & Grady, 2018; J. S. Levenson, Willis, & Vicencio, 2017). Many experts or professionals that work with sex offenders find the current policies lack effectiveness in reducing recidivism and also recognize that post-conviction policies lead to many collateral consequences such as isolation, stigmatization, trouble finding housing and gainful employment (J. Levenson, Fortney, & Baker, 2009). Currently, prevention efforts in the United States that directly target potentially at-risk individuals are limited. While these services for non-offending individuals do exist, we do not know much about them.

The goal of this talk is to present a new collaborative CSA prevention program initiative targeting non-offending individuals with pedophilia/hebephilia (henceforth referred to as non-offending Minor Attracted Persons, or NOMAPs) in the community in New York State. We will describe the treatment model from The Global Prevention Project, the obstacles encountered during replication initiation in New York, and how they were addressed during replication. We also assessed the level of potential support from the community for such a program and whether they believe this prevention program would be beneficial in helping to reduce the number of child sex abuse cases. Implications for CSA/CSEM prevention will be discussed in light of this project.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe The Global Prevention Project treatment model and how it is used in prevention.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to discuss the barriers encountered in New York State during the process of launching the replication group.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to provide a pathway to develop an evidence-based framework for CSA/CSEM prevention in the U.S.

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Dr. Gilian Tenbergen is an Assistant Professor of Psychology with SUNY Oswego, where she teaches and researches in the subject of pedophilia and child sexual abuse prevention. Her work currently focuses on implementing primary child sexual abuse prevention programs in New York State and understanding the neurobiological etiology of pedophilia as a sexual age orientation. She hopes to use this information to better understand the risk factors relevant for onset sexual offending in order to better prevent it.

Catherine Diana has a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Syracuse University and has maintained a Private Practice working with adult men and women sex offenders since 1992, providing Individual, Group, Family, and Educational services to hundreds of men, women, and their families. She has been providing education and training for over 25 years on the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders and currently serves on the Boards of both the New York State ATSA/New York State Alliance for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, wherein she is a member.

Candice Christiansen, MEd, LCMHC is the Founder and Clinical Director of The Global Prevention Project (TGPP). TGPP is internationally known for its Minor Attracted Person (MAP) mental wellness program. In 2018, she co-authored a chapter on global prevention programs for a book series published by Palgrave Macmillan. She is the host of The Prevention Podcast, giving a global voice to cisgendered, transgendered, and non-binary anti-contact, non-offending MAPs and their families. Candice serves on the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) Prevention Committee and is an international consultant on issues related to MAP wellness.