

- ECPAT International. Compendium of articles: Research findings on child abuse images and sexual exploitation of children online. 2009  
[http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/ecpat\\_journal\\_sept\\_2009\\_full\\_0.pdf](http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/ecpat_journal_sept_2009_full_0.pdf)

Internet technology is perhaps the greatest facilitator humankind has created to date. The technology has facilitated connections that transcend most of the traditional boundaries to community building: geography, culture, time, and jurisdictional boundaries. While the benefits of these connections are profound and almost limitless, the IT revolution is not without unintended adverse consequences. Internet technology– which of course is by itself morally neutral – has also facilitated the creation of criminal communities that transcend all of the same traditional limitations to community building. The result is the proliferation of criminal communities of unprecedented scope, size and durability. The troubling implications for those vulnerable to victimization are obvious.

How are we to respond to this new challenge? The reports in this journal offer new research findings, insights and analysis, reveal gaps and make recommendations aimed at protecting children from forms of sexual exploitation through the Internet and promoting their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration.