



Making the world safer for children by eradicating child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.
We advocate, train and collaborate to protect the world's children.

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History

In 1996, Belgium was shaken by a series of tragic kidnappings, rapes and murders of teenage girls, commonly known as the “Dutroux Affair.” As the atrocity of the crimes was disclosed, the public became very critical of the way authorities handled the case. After more than 300,000 Belgian citizens protested in the now-legendary “White March,” the Belgian Prime Minister visited the U.S.-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and asked NCMEC to establish a similar center in Brussels. While NCMEC promised to provide guidance and support, it recognized that Belgium did not need an American solution to the problem – a Belgian solution was required. NCMEC then worked with the Belgian government, the private sector, victim parents and law enforcement to create the Brussels-based Child Focus.

Other countries began visiting NCMEC and asking for help and while NCMEC was able to provide training, technical assistance and support, it was difficult for the organization to become too involved in international programs and operations without diverting time and resources from its core mission of serving America’s missing and exploited children. Therefore, in May 1997 the NCMEC Board of Directors authorized the creation of the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC). ICMEC’s Board of Directors held its first meeting in May 1998, and ICMEC was officially launched in April 1999 at a ceremony hosted by the British Ambassador in Washington, D.C.

Today, through our headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, ICMEC works around the world to advance child protection and safeguard children from abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.

ICMEC has regional representation in Brazil, Singapore and South Korea. Together with an extensive network of public and private sector partners, ICMEC’s team responds to global issues with tailored local solutions.

A Letter from our Chairman of the Board

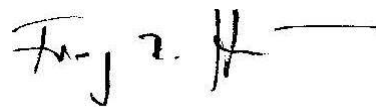


It is my honor and privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), a forceful organization that is working tirelessly to make the world safer for all children by eradicating child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.

Since 1998, ICMEC has collaborated globally with civil society, governments and private industry – including the payments sector, technology companies and the public health arena – in pursuit of these goals. Coordinating efforts, encouraging partnership and fostering collaboration are essential elements of a comprehensive and proactive approach to child protection efforts.

ICMEC's efforts to date have resulted in: the direct training of over 7,000 law enforcement officers from more than 115 countries; the refinement or implementation of new laws against child pornography in over 100 countries; the growing commemoration of International Missing Children's Day, which has been memorialized in more than 20 countries across 6 continents; and the creation of a 23-member Global Missing Children's Network.

I commend ICMEC for its efforts to raise awareness and empower partners around the world to address these growing yet under-recognized global problems. Without a doubt, it will take a concerted effort by governments, law enforcement, industry, civil society, communities, and individuals to ensure that the world's children are protected. Please join us in our mission.



Dr. Franz B. Humer
Chairman of the Board

A Letter from our President & CEO



It is my great privilege to return to the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) after having served here several years ago as the first Director of The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy. During my 27 years at the U.S. Department of State, children's issues were of paramount importance to me and the teams I led. I am humbled and enthusiastic about returning to ICMEC so that together we can make the world safer for all children.

The year 2014 was one of significant accomplishment. We published two white papers under the umbrella of our Global Health Coalition; welcomed Serbia to the Global Missing Children's Network; presented before the League of Arab States on Child Protection Model Law, a joint publication with The Protection Project; promoted the Project VIC framework as a way to rescue more children from sexual exploitation, while reducing investigator workload and burnout; hosted 18 child protection trainings and roundtables for law enforcement, prosecutors and specialists from 5 continents; and provided research support and technical assistance to global partners, whose friendship and mutual support is essential to our mission.

Through our regional field representation in Asia and Latin America, we led the second Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography roundtable in Sydney, Australia; won a grant to undertake an industry awareness campaign in Singapore; coordinated a Roundtable on Combating Child Pornography with partner Te Protejo in Colombia; and presented on an expert panel in Costa Rica on ICMEC's work to combat online child sexual exploitation at the invitation of the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children.

We are proud of these – and many other – achievements, but sadly much more remains to be done. We see a world where child abduction, sexual abuse and the exploitation of children do not exist.

At ICMEC, we believe every child deserves a safe childhood. Please join us as we work each and every day to make this dream a reality.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maura'.

Ambassador Maura Harty, ret.

Advocate

Groundbreaking Research and Localized Responses

The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy



Jeff Koons, ICMEC Board Member; Ambassador Maura Harty, ret., ICMEC President & CEO; Justine Koons

Named in honor of ICMEC Board member and world-renowned artist Jeff Koons – who lived the pain of international parental child abduction firsthand – and his family, The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy conducts and commissions original research into the status of child protection laws around the world, creates replicable legal tools, promotes best practices, brings together opinion leaders, and collaborates with partners in the field to identify and measure threats to children and ways ICMEC can advocate change.

Through The Koons Family Institute, ICMEC champions anti-child pornography model legislation through the influential report, *Child Pornography: Model Legislation & Global Review*, which ICMEC first released in April 2006. The report provides insight into current anti-child pornography legislation around the world to gain a better understanding of existing legislation and to gauge where the issue stands on national political agendas. Now in its 7th edition, the report covers legislation in 196 countries, as well as cutting-edge topics such as implementation, data retention and online grooming.

As a joint program with The Protection Project (formerly based out of The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies), the Child Protection Project seeks to establish a common definition for “child protection” that encompasses worldwide perspectives, while promoting the study and practice of the field. Extensive research and review resulted in a Child Protection Model Law, comprised of 65 articles based on international legal standards and best practices from more than 68 countries and 130 national laws. It includes topics ranging from sexual and economic exploitation, to the protection of children in emergency situations and in the justice system. ICMEC and The Protection Project also have developed together 100 Best Practices in Child Protection, a

guide offering examples of successful initiatives undertaken by civil society organizations, individuals and government agencies concerned with protecting children around the world.

The Missing Children’s Research Project encompasses in-depth research on legislation, best practices and policies related to missing children to identify trends and common themes while locating gaps in countries’ investigative protocols and statutory frameworks. The goal is to motivate a harmonized, global strategy to adequately address missing children and child abduction. The first report resulting from this research covered Central America, and was completed with the support of the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNICEF LACRO).

Additional current research topics include: online grooming, child sex trafficking and sex offender registration.

Regional Representation

ICMEC’s regional representation is tasked with responding to local and regional needs and developing customized programs while raising global awareness of our mission areas. ICMEC’s Asia-Pacific regional office is based in Singapore (ICMEC Singapore). ICMEC Singapore has built a diverse regional membership to the Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography, successfully convening seven forums in Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, to date. Furthermore, it has strengthened collaboration with the Association of South East Asian Nations, increased government engagement, and continues to expand the research efforts of The Koons Family Institute through partnerships with educational institutions in the region.

ICMEC’s Latin America and Caribbean regional representation is based in Brazil (ICMEC LAC). ICMEC LAC strategically collaborates to influence regional child protection issues, with such entities as the Inter-American Institute of the Child, UNICEF, the Caribbean Community’s Regional Task Force for Child Protection, and the Organization of American States. ICMEC LAC also has helped countries develop national policies and investigative protocols related to missing children, while supporting The Koons Family Institute’s research projects. ICMEC LAC has raised issue awareness significantly by assisting in the coordination of International Missing Children’s Day events in Brazil, convening the GMCN Annual Conference, and instructing at the national police academy.

ICMEC’s Northeast Asia regional representation, in South Korea (ICMEC NEA), supports the work of ICMEC APAC by: building networks among law enforcement, government, civil society and industry in Northeast Asia; and facilitating a common regional approach to addressing the problem of missing and exploited children. The office maximizes ICMEC’s resources and impact in the region through drafting legislation, offering training programs and building awareness with relevant civil society, government and industry representatives.

Train

Global Capacity Building

Training

Since 2003, ICMEC has more than 7,000 law enforcement officers, investigators, prosecutors, and other specialists from over 115 countries. Sample training courses include:

- Essentials of Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children (for both law enforcement and prosecutors)
- Advanced Online Exploitation Investigations
- Advanced Technologies
- Fundamentals of Responding to Missing Children

Technology Tools

In addition to these trainings, ICMEC contributes expertise and outreach capabilities to several projects focused on enhancing the operational technology for law enforcement, with the objective of increasing their capacity to investigate crimes against children through electronic data standardization, enhancement, and collaboration. Through Project VIC – an image and video hash-sharing initiative – ICMEC works with industry partners and law enforcement to reduce the number of images viewed by law enforcement officers during investigations into child sexual abuse materials, and speeds the identification of child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Project VIC consists of a library of over 3 million unique child abuse images and videos, as well as over 1 million quality controlled hash values of categorized child exploitation materials, which is made available to an international network of law enforcement

entities to help them more efficiently and effectively identify child victims.

As part of Project VIC, ICMEC oversees distribution of PhotoDNA and F1 video fingerprinting technology to law enforcement around the world:

- *Photo DNA* is an innovative tool, developed by Microsoft, that compiles a digital signature of images (or a “fingerprint”), which can be matched against a database of known child-pornography images, thus significantly reducing the time law enforcement officers spend viewing these images to determine if the child victims have already been identified or are currently at-risk.
- *F1 video fingerprinting technology* is specialized forensic technology, donated to ICMEC by Friend MTS, which generates unique video fingerprints of child-pornography video clips. These “video fingerprints” can be used by law enforcement to efficiently and reliably identify copies or partial copies of the illegal material, saving law enforcement valuable time and enabling online services to filter and block its distribution.

ICMEC is also a private sector partner of the Virtual Global Taskforce, which seeks to combat online child sexual exploitation through international law enforcement collaboration.

ICMEC has trained more than
7,000 law enforcement officers,
investigators, prosecutors, and
other specialists from more than
115 countries.



Law Enforcement Training, Hong Kong Police Force

Collaborate

Pioneering Global Campaigns

Global Missing Children's Network

ICMEC's Global Missing Children's Network (GMCN) offers resources to law enforcement, and the public at large, to assist with preventing and responding to reports of missing children (including international parental child abduction).

The GMCN is comprised of websites from 23 member countries that feed into a central, multilingual database and features information about and photographs of missing children. The GMCN also provides technical training for member countries and an annual training on current investigative trends, tools and best practices. Members of the GMCN together commemorate International Missing Children's Day on May 25 each year, to remember children who have gone missing and those who have been found. To date, 23 countries participate: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Greece, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

ICMEC provides technical assistance to countries interested in creating a rapid emergency child abduction alert program, modeled after the AMBER Alert Program in the United States, with the support of the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S.-based NCMEC. The premise is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and transportation agencies to activate an urgent bulletin in cases where an abducted child is believed to be in imminent danger. The goal is to instantly galvanize an entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of a missing child. In addition to the United States, all U.S. territories, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom have implemented an alert system of this type.

Campaign Against International Parental Child Abduction

ICMEC maintains a long-term partnership with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law to promote consistent and uniform implementation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, as well as to improve coordination between contracting and non-contracting party states. In 2010, ICMEC hosted the International Judicial Conference on Cross-Border Family Relocation, resulting in the Washington Declaration, aimed at reshaping the judicial community's perspective on this serious and growing challenge. ICMEC also commissioned A Statistical Analysis of Applications Made in 2008 Under the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980, conducted by Professor Nigel Lowe of Cardiff University Law School, as well as Good Practice and Enforcement Reports on a number of Hague-related matters. ICMEC participates in Special Commission Meetings as they are held.

Global Health Initiative

In late 2011, ICMEC, Telefono Azzurro, Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, and the Mayo Clinic together hosted a forum in Rome to build awareness and create an action plan for world leaders to address child sexual abuse and exploitation. The document that resulted, the Declaration of Rome, calls for an international effort to improve the recognition and identification of child victims, and to ensure assistance for the massive numbers of hidden victims of these crimes.

From this foundation ICMEC's Global Health Initiative to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation launched, with the goal of increasing recognition, identification and treatment of child victims through research, advocacy and training. As a first step, ICMEC assembled a Global Health Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, which aims to address child sexual abuse and exploitation from a public health perspective. Members include leading pharmaceutical, hospital, and other healthcare leaders. Currently the Global Health Coalition is working to promote changes in international medical codes to include specific codes for sexual exploitation, and develop training programs for first responders in international schools (i.e., school nurses and administrators).

ICMEC also has published three white papers on topics related to the work of the Global Health Coalition:

- [*Health Impact Comparison Between Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation*](#)

This report highlights the similarities and differences child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual exploitation (CSE) has on the health of a victim. There is a lack of information and understanding about the health impacts victims suffer and how to treat them.

- [*Healing Across Borders: Global Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Interventions for Child Sexual Abuse Victims*](#)

This paper reviewed several implementations of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy for child sexual abuse victims to discern the effectiveness of this therapy in different cultural settings and resource levels.

- [*Examining Pedophilia: Causes, Treatments and the Effects of Stigmatization*](#)

This report seeks to better understand the differences between pedophilia and sex offending, to identify treatments used historically and presently to treat pedophiles, and to identify the success of several programs implemented throughout the world to promote abstinence from offending.



Financial Coalition

In the United States, ICMEC co-manages the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography, which aims to disrupt the economics of the child pornography business – and thereby heavily decrease the spread of illegal content – by building alliances among private sector companies, law enforcement and non-governmental organizations. Together the members represent nearly 90% of the U.S. payments industry and have sharply decreased the profitability of these commercial ventures.

ICMEC first expanded the reach of this model by establishing the Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography in 2009. Its members also include leading credit card companies, electronic payments networks, Internet companies, NGOs, industry associations and law enforcement. This alliance is taking a primarily regional approach, but is also working to build national networks in targeted countries.

Additionally, members of law enforcement, civil society and private industry have re-launched the European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online. This initiative, supported by the European Commission, builds on a prior project to stop commercial websites from facilitating trade of child abuse material. In addition to ICMEC, the European Financial Coalition Steering Committee includes representatives from INHOPE, MasterCard, Visa Europe, Paypal, Microsoft, Google, Eurojust, and the Dutch National Police.

Members of the U.S.
Financial Coalition Against
Child Pornography make up
90% of the U.S. payments industry.

Consolidated Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and revenue			
Grants and contributions	\$ 562,645	\$ 696,598	\$ 1,259,243
Interest income	358	-	358
Net assets released from restrictions	712,813	(712,813)	-
Total support and revenue	1,275,816	(16,215)	1,259,601
Expenses			
Program services:			
Global network	2,097,674	-	2,097,674
Technology and training	504,183	-	504,183
Total program services	2,601,857	-	2,601,857
Supporting services:			
Management and general	52,473		52,473
Fundraising	319,546		319,546
Total supporting services	372,019	-	372,019
Total expenses	2,973,876	-	2,973,876
Change in net assets	(1,698,060)	(16,215)	(1,714,275)
Net assets			
Beginning	3,389,647	1,813,490	5,203,137
Ending	\$ 1,691,587	\$ 1,797,275	\$ 3,488,862

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Program Services			Supporting Services			
	Global Network	Technology and Training	Total Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total Support Services	Total Expenses
Personnel	\$718,819	\$ 184,103	\$ 902,922	\$ 17,505	\$ 94,570	\$ 112,075	\$ 1,014,997
Professional/contract fees	602,030	98,804	700,834	27,585	134,169	161,754	862,588
Travel	115,084	87,978	203,062	-	20,135	20,135	223,197
Supplies and deliveries	25,785	5,859	31,644	610	7,772	8,382	40,026
Occupancy	262,328	63,309	325,637	6,589	40,125	46,714	372,351
Grants outreach	276,601	-	276,601	-	-	-	276,601
Other	97,027	64,130	161,157	184	22,775	22,959	184,116
	\$2,097,674	\$ 504,183	\$ 2,601,857	\$ 52,473	\$ 319,546	\$ 372,019	\$ 2,973,876

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