



International Centre  
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN



# THE GLOBAL IMPACT FUND

Advancing Child Protection and Building Safer Childhoods

WELCOME

# Because one child missing, abused or exploited is **one child too many**



We live in an increasingly inter-related world where on any given day our attention can be captured by even the most insignificant story. And while we are absorbed in the latest celebrity gossip or irrelevant headline, the desperate drama of an individual child can go unheard. A study published in January 2016 estimated that up to half of the world's 2 billion children experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence in the previous year. Those are real children facing terrifying and life-changing events. They need us to be their voice – to speak for them when they are unable and to develop ways for them to speak when they are ready.

## **THIS IS WHY WE LAUNCHED THE GLOBAL IMPACT FUND.**

As we work toward our 20th anniversary, the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) is positioning itself to take on an even greater role in advocating, training and collaborating with our global partners to protect the world's children. As advocates we will propose changes to laws, treaties and systems based on rigorous research and the latest technology. As trainers we will provide tools to those who interface with children to improve the possibility of prevention, to treat victims and to enhance our ability to identify, investigate and prosecute anyone who abuses or exploits children. Finally, as collaborators we will build international networks of professionals across disciplines to anticipate issues, identify gaps and develop cross-cutting solutions.

This mission is challenging. We need your help. As you will see in the pages that follow, our work has many interconnected pieces, all coming together to bring about the changes needed to help ensure the safety of children everywhere. From building capacity and strengthening our focus to enhancing our programs and launching new initiatives, The Global Impact Fund will allow us to better identify the gaps in the global community's ability to protect children from abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation and expertly assemble the people, resources and tools needed to fill those gaps.

Sincerely,

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

Ambassador Maura Harty, *ret.*  
President & CEO

In 1996, Belgium was shaken by the tragic “Dutroux Affair.” Over the course of many years, Marc Dutroux, an unemployed electrician and father of three, committed a series of kidnappings, rapes and killings of an unknown number of teenage girls. As the atrocity of his crimes was disclosed, the public became very critical of the way the authorities handled the case. More than 300,000 Belgian citizens expressed their anger in the now-legendary “White March,” and shortly thereafter, the Belgian Prime Minister visited the U.S.-based National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). He asked that NCMEC establish a center in Brussels to which NCMEC’s President responded, “You do not need an American solution to this problem – you need a Belgian solution. But we will help.” NCMEC then worked with the Belgian government, private sector leaders, victim parents, and law enforcement to create the Brussels-based Child Focus.

Other countries began visiting NCMEC and asking for help. 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 and Singapore. Together with an extensive network of public and private sector partners, ICMEC’s team responds to global issues with tailored local solutions.

OUR HISTORY



## ABOUT US

ICMEC is committed to building a safer world for our children by advocating for improved protections, providing the necessary tools and training to those on the front lines, and collaborating with partners around the world. ICMEC believes that safeguarding children is a responsibility we all share — creating a world that is safer for today's children and even safer tomorrow.



### Our Vision

Making the world a safer place for children by eradicating child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.

### Our Mission

We advocate, train and collaborate to protect the world's children.

Through strategic programs and initiatives, ICMEC impacts complex issues surrounding missing children, child abduction, child sexual abuse, and child sexual exploitation.

- **Advocacy:** ICMEC advocates for changes in laws, treaties and systems to protect children worldwide.
- **Training:** ICMEC deploys instructors and technology tools to bolster the capacity of law enforcement, physicians, nurses, educators and other child-serving professionals to give them the resources they need to combat child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.
- **Collaboration:** ICMEC collaborates globally with civil society, governments and private industry, encouraging partnerships and coordination that create value and motivate real change in the lives of children around the world.

- **Global Initiative for Child Health & Well-Being:** Increasing the recognition, identification and treatment of child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation through research, advocacy and training.
- **Global Missing Children's Center:** Protecting children around the world from going missing or being abducted by providing resources for governments, law enforcement, NGOs, and families on prevention as well as the appropriate actions to take in the event a child does go missing.
- **Global Training Academy:** Providing resources for those on the frontlines of protecting children around the world, with a focus on giving law enforcement, educators, parents, medical professionals, and other child protection specialists tools to combat child sexual abuse, identify exploitation and find missing children.
- **The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy:** Combating child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation on multiple fronts by conducting and commissioning original research into the status of child protection laws around the world, creating replicable legal tools, promoting best practices, building international coalitions and collaborating with partners to identify and measure threats to children and ways ICMEC can enact possible change.



## PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



We believe all children have a right to live without fear of abduction and free from sexual abuse and exploitation.

We believe every child deserves a safe childhood where they are able to grow into healthy and successful adults.

## GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR CHILD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Increasing the recognition, identification and treatment of child victims through research, advocacy and training.



A gift to The Global Impact Fund will help us enhance the Global Initiative focused on the collaborative care of children staffed by a team of experts taking a holistic approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation and treatment of victims.

### OUR GOALS:

- Promote research to identify the risk factors for child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Empower children to reach out to a trusted adult when faced with sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Educate adults to understand the warning signs of child sexual abuse and exploitation and provide them the skills needed to intervene.

### OUR IMPACT:

- The Global Health Coalition includes 33 health-sector members, including 6 of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, who have joined forces to address child sexual exploitation as a public health crisis.
- Through the Global Initiative for Child Health & Well-Being, ICMEC is partnering with the International Task Force on Child Protection, which is comprised of members of the international school community, and the U.S. Department of State to deliver resources and training to educators and school personnel in more than 1,223 schools across 112 countries to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation.



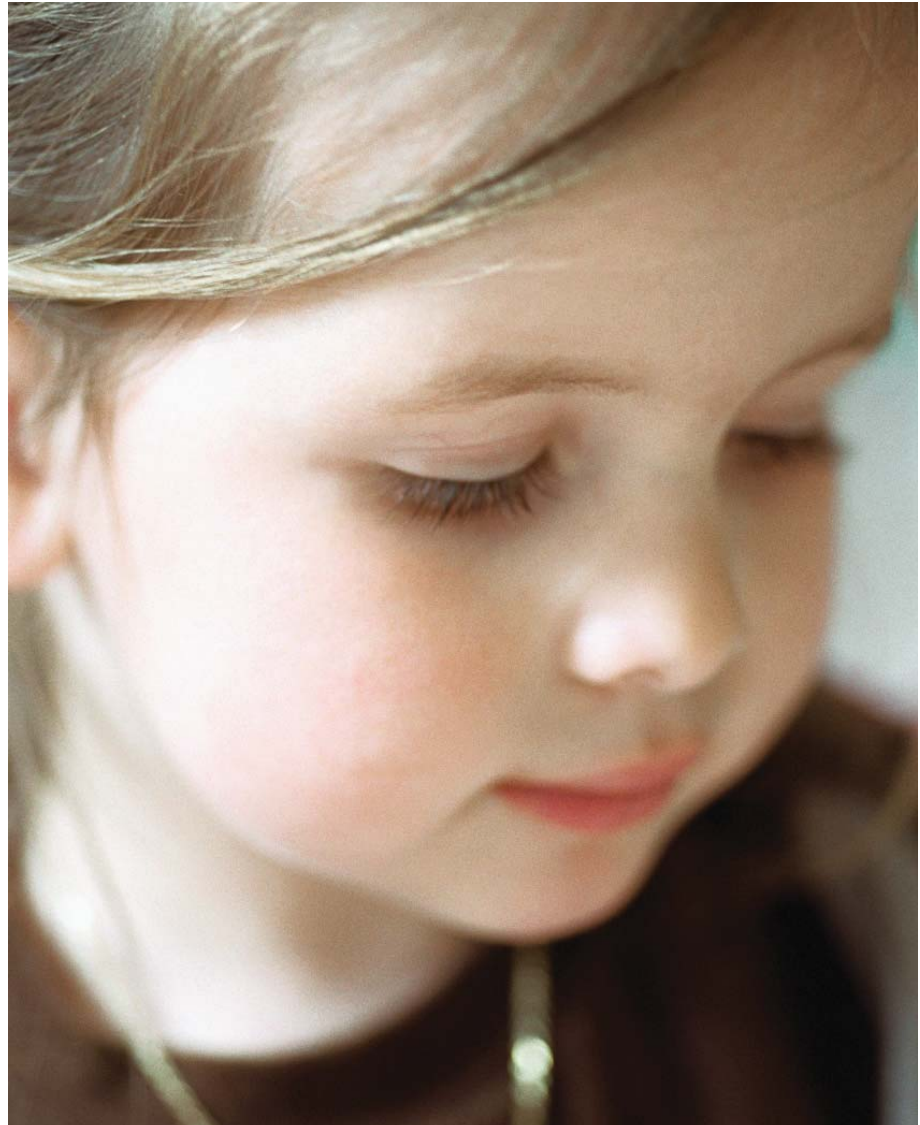
Each year millions of children around the world are sexually abused and exploited.

...and because of this trauma, these children are more likely to struggle with:

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Depression and anxiety
- Suicidal ideation
- Eating disorders
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Asthma and chronic bronchitis
- Diabetes, cancer and stroke

And, as adults, they are more likely to earn less money per year and be less likely to have a bank account or own a home.\*

\*The Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study, 14 American Journal of Preventive Medicine 245, 248 (1998).



## GLOBAL MISSING CHILDREN'S CENTER

Protecting children around the world from going missing or being abducted by providing resources for governments, law enforcement, NGOs, and families on prevention as well as the appropriate actions to take in the event a child does go missing.



A gift to The Global Impact Fund will help us create awareness around the issues of missing and abducted children and share best practices to assist in prevention, response and recovery.

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### OUR GOALS:

- Increase membership in the Global Missing Children's Network to enhance international information sharing on missing children.
- Advocate and assist with the introduction of Rapid Emergency Child Alert Systems.
- Expand the use of technology in the recovery of missing children.
- Increase global support for the 1980 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

### OUR IMPACT:

- We have helped 11 countries develop Rapid Emergency Child Alert Systems similar to AMBER Alert in the U.S. There are now 24 countries with alert systems in place.
- The Global Missing Children's Network, which offers resources to law enforcement, non-governmental organizations and the public at large to assist with preventing and responding to reports of missing children, currently has 24 member countries on 4 continents.
- We have worked with 8 countries to develop comprehensive responses to the issue of missing children.

# A missing child is a vulnerable child.

**THERE IS NO COMMONLY AGREED UPON DEFINITION OF "MISSING" IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.** What it means to be “missing” is understood in a variety of ways around the world. The concept is largely dependent on national context and cultural and social influencers. The lack of an agreed upon definition makes it difficult to know the full extent of the problem and to determine how best to protect children from going missing or being abducted - or how to find them when they do.

Even with these challenges, it can be estimated that:

- In Australia, an estimated 20,000 children are reported missing every year.
- In Canada, an estimated 45,288 children are reported missing each year.
- In Germany, an estimated 100,000 children are reported missing each year.
- In India, an estimated 70,000 children go missing each year.
- In Russia, an estimated 45,000 children were reported missing in 2015.
- In Spain, an estimated 20,000 children are reported missing every year.
- In the United Kingdom, an estimated 112,853 children are reported missing every year.
- In the United States, an estimated 460,000 children are reported missing every year.

While many children who are reported “missing” are recovered or return to their homes voluntarily, a family and even an entire community can be forever changed by a missing child.

*\*Visit [www.icmec.org/missing-children-statistics](http://www.icmec.org/missing-children-statistics) for more information and reference details.*





Providing resources for those on the frontlines of protecting children around the world, with a focus on giving law enforcement, educators, medical professionals, and other child protection specialists tools to combat child sexual abuse, identify exploitation and find missing children.



A gift to The Global Impact Fund will help us create comprehensive training programs to improve victim identification, and improve efficiency of identifying, investigating and prosecuting people who victimize children.

#### OUR GOALS:

- Introduce advanced tools and technology to law enforcement around the world to expand the number of victimized children who are identified and the speed with which those children are recovered.
- Provide first-responder training focused on missing children and the importance of having laws, policies and procedures specifically related to missing children.
- Conduct workshops on the development of Rapid Emergency Child Alert Systems, providing participants with an overview of the various types of systems, best practices, protocols and procedures, criteria for alerts, and steps involved in the development and launch of an alert system.
- Create online tools for teachers, parents and professionals who work with children.
- Offer multi-disciplinary training modules for health care workers, teachers and other professionals serving children.

#### OUR IMPACT:

- Since 2003, ICMEC has conducted more than 114 law-enforcement trainings across 6 continents.
- ICMEC has trained more than 9,145 teachers, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, investigators, prosecutors, and other child-serving specialists.
- In the past year, ICMEC has provided multi-disciplinary trainings and workshops that cover a diverse set of subjects including ways to combat secondary stress associated with working on cases of online child sexual exploitation and understanding the trauma-informed, victim-centered approach to online child sexual exploitation and how it intersects with cultural beliefs and attitudes.

## THE KOONS FAMILY INSTITUTE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY

Conducting and commissioning original research into the status of child protection legislation around the world to help make children safer.



A gift to The Global Impact Fund will help us create replicable legal tools, best practices and international coalitions to bring about change in the way children are protected around the world.

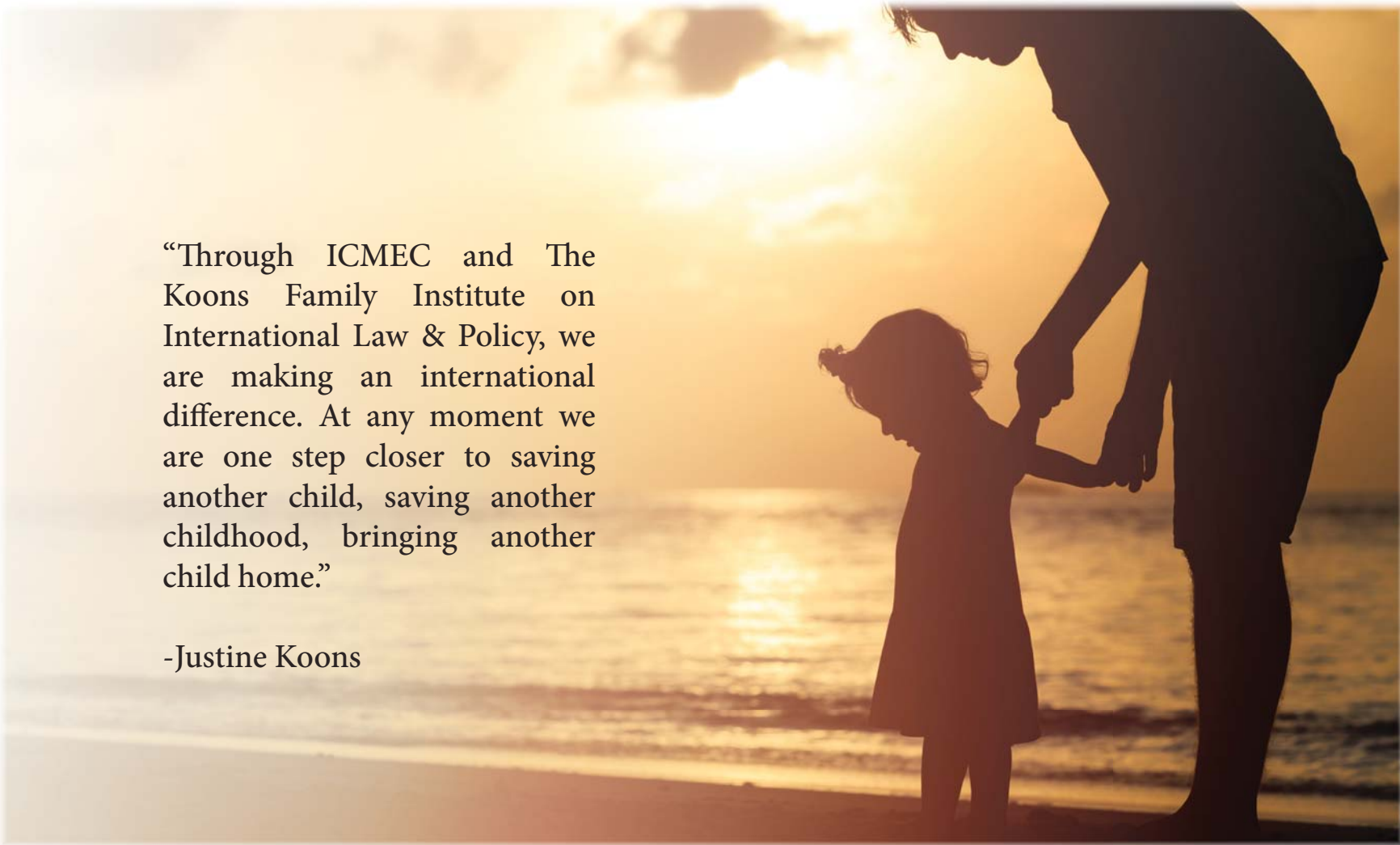
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### OUR GOALS:

- Increase the number of countries developing and implementing policies and legislation that protect children.
- Improve the reliability and consistency of the data available regarding child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Create replicable legal tools.
- Collaborate with partners in the field to identify and measure threats to children.
- Equip young professionals with the skills needed to better understand and address issues related to child protection.

### OUR IMPACT:

- Since 2009, The Koons Family Institute has hosted approximately 180 interns and volunteers, resulting in over 30,000 volunteer hours dedicated to helping create impactful studies on child protection legislation and a variety of other subjects.
- Since *Child Pornography: Model Legislation & Global Review* was first released in 2006, 127 countries have refined or implemented new anti-child pornography laws.

A photograph showing the silhouettes of an adult and a young child walking on a beach. The adult is holding the child's hand. They are walking towards the ocean under a bright, low sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The child is wearing a dress.

“Through ICMEC and The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy, we are making an international difference. At any moment we are one step closer to saving another child, saving another childhood, bringing another child home.”

-Justine Koons

Be a champion for children. **Donate Now.**  
Visit us online at [donate.icmec.org](https://donate.icmec.org) or contact us by telephone at +1 703 837 6356.



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