End Violence 10th Global Knowledge Exchange Webinar

Child-centred and integrated frameworks for investigation, rehabilitation and recovery
17 June 2020

RECAP

Background

The Global Knowledge Exchange Webinars are a community space to share and learn from grantees' experiences, strategies, challenges and best practices to tackle online violence against children. After hosting seven webinars in 2018-2019 to showcase best practices and lessons learned from different countries and grantees, in 2020 the webinars address technical issues and capacity needs of the grantee community. Topics are chosen based on the key gaps, priorities, and feedback from grantees. The '2020 webinar series' includes: (i) Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) specialized services; (ii) safeguarding; (iii) measuring and communicating results; (iv) technology solutions; and, (v) best practices to ensure child-centred investigations, rehabilitation and recovery.

This webinar aims to bring clarity and generate discussion on experiences and best practices to avoid re-victimisation and ensure inter-agency collaboration for online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) cases. Different national contexts have generated different types of services depending on legal systems, social structures, cultural traditions, and professional practices. Four country models were presented as follows: (i) the Barnahus model which was originally adopted in the Nordic countries and is now used in multiple countries in Europe, as well as the model used in Peru, the Philippines, and the UK.

Members of the End Violence's Fund Steering Committee and others from Europe were invited to attend this webinar. Participants from Europe included members of the: (i) Steering Committee of the project implemented by the Council of Europe with resources from the Fund; (ii) Barnahus PROMISE Network; and, (iii) Lanzarote Committee.

Country models, experiences and best practices to avoid re-victimisation and ensure inter-agency collaboration for online CSEA cases

(i) Barnahus model

Regina Jensdottir, Head of the Children's Rights Division at the Council of Europe, presented the Barnahus model which is a leading model in Europe and is promoted by multiple organisations including the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The Barnahus was identified as an example of promising practice by the Lanzarote Committee which triggered a lot interest among Member States. There are 20 European countries that have replicated or adapted the Barnahus model, however, the structures are different depending on the country context.

The Barnahus (which literally means "Children's House") coordinates parallel criminal and child welfare investigations of cases of violence against children, including online CSEA, and provides support services for victims and their families. It's a unique inter-agency model that brings together all relevant criminal, health care and child protection actors in one child-friendly premise with dedicated rooms for medical examinations, assessment of protection needs and forensic interviews. The model allows to collect information for criminal proceedings while avoiding repeated interviews with the child by many professionals in different locations. The Barnahus forensic interview process implies that the child's videoed testimony is eligible in court, and the child does not need to wait or face the perpetrator. In many countries legal reviews where required to ensure video recordings would be eligible in court as evidence. Judges and prosecutors often see the value but have difficulties because legislative frameworks do not clearly allow it. This was the case in Slovenia, for example.

Therefore, the CoE supported the drafting of a specific Barnahus law aimed at defining the operational and organisation framework for Barnahus and the roles and responsibilities of each actor.

The model does not require important financial investments, but mainly change in working methods and mindsets as the child victim is put at the centre of the proceeding. Based on the experiences in EU countries, key enabling factors include: (i) strong political leadership and commitment; (ii) appropriate legal and policy framework; (iii) sustainable public funding anchored in the State budget; (iv) formal agreements to facilitate solid inter-agency collaboration; and, (v) public awareness to ensure confidence in reporting. Education, awareness-raising and capacity building are at the heart of the Barnahus model. This involves not only continued professional development, but awareness-raising with relevant external actors (e.g. teachers). For example, in Finland the Barnahus staff has a mandatory obligation to put aside time for education, training and awareness-raising.

One of the key contributing factors to facilitate collaboration between key agencies and professionals is to ensure inter-agency agreements are in place and are implemented. It is also important to create mechanisms to build trust and facilitate exchanges, such as steering group meetings, tools and procedures. In Slovenia, the CoE supported the development of the National Guidelines for Barnahus and the negotiation of roles and responsibilities of each partner with support from hands-on professionals working in Barnahus structures in other countries. Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing was well appreciated and especially crucial for engaging legal professionals. The Child and Youth Protection Centre in Zagreb (Croatia) is a good example of how Barnahus models can work effectively with the helpline.

The Barnahus protocols were initially addressing contact abuse in the circle of trust, however, online CSEA has been integrated and services adapted as the online dimension requires additional expertise and a lifelong support because the images are accessible for life. Comparative data is currently not available; however, the CoE conducted a snapshot survey in collaboration with the Barnahus PROMISE Network (with responses from countries with Barnahus structures) which shows that statistics vary depending on the country. For example, in Ireland 15% of caseload are online CSEA cases; in Norway with 7 Barnahus, statistics varied in the past two years from over 15% to less than 4% with an average of 7.5%-7% for both 2019 and 2020.

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- **Regina Jensdottir**: regina.jensdottir@coe.int
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Resources
- Barnahus model lessons learnt, quality standards, research, guidance, support and training.
- Guidance and templates to facilitate interagency agreements are available on the PROMISE network
- Documented best practices in negotiating interagency collaboration, Slovenian example.
- Violence Prevention Collaboration Multiplier tool for governments, civil society and businesses.
- Resource paper: At the Crossroads - Exploring changes to criminal justice proceedings when they intersect
- with child protection proceedings in cases involving child victims of violence, January 2020.
- Council of Europe, Protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse: child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency response inspired by the Barnahus model.
- EndOCSEA@Europe project implemented by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Cybercrime Office (C-PROC) with financial support from the End Violence Fund. As part of this project, CoE is developing four training modules to harmonise investigation, prosecution and judging of online CSEA cases to be piloted in three EU countries in 2021.

(ii) Peru
Andrea Querol Lipcovich, President of the Board at Capital Humano y Social Alternativo (CHS), presented the work of the Legal & Psychosocial Care and Guidance Center (CALP), and best practices examples from Peru to avoid revictimisation and ensure inter-agency collaboration for online CSEA cases.

The CALP provides comprehensive care for child victims of exploitation with a victim-centred approach and based on the best interest of the child. The main function of the CALP is to coordinate the work of multiple service providers, including private entities, to ensure child victims receive individualised and specialised care (e.g. via an individual care plan for each child). The center coordinates the provision of direct assistance to report abuse and access justice, immediate assistance during rescue operations, psychological and emotional support during proceedings and legal follow-up. The goal is to reintegrate child victims into a protective and emotionally stable family and to ensure that their right to education and their access to justice are re-established.

To deliver best result for child victims, the CALP has developed agreements and partnerships with relevant government agencies, civil society and private sector. CHS has also advocated for legislative reforms, conducted research on online CSEA, raised awareness at local and regional level, facilitated trainings for key professionals and supported the development of cross-sectoral referrals and integrated practices to ensure coordination between key stakeholders (e.g. cross-sectoral protocol for online CSEA).

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- **Andrea Querol Lipcovich**: aquerol@chsalternativo.org
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Resources
- Legal & Psychosocial Care and Guidance Center (CALP)
- Redes Seguras, a prevention tool for Androids and iPhone devices downloadable on Play or App Store.

(iii) The Philippines

John Tanagho, Director of the END OSEC Center at the International Justice Mission (IJM), presented the survivor-centered inter-agency response model to online CSEA implemented by IJM in the Philippines. IJM partners with both government and non-government partners to rescue victims, restrain criminals, restore survivors and strengthen the local justice systems. Public and private aftercare providers deliver services to online CSEA survivors to improve personal well-being, reduce the risk of revictimisation and enhance engagement with the public justice system (e.g. secure justice without re-traumatisation).

The coordinated survivor-centered approach is designed to address the complex needs of survivors of online CSEA and it involves three main components:
- The **Six Domains of Restoration** are especially critical to help survivors' journey to the point of restoration (a place where their vulnerability to revictimisation is significantly reduced). Services for victims are aligned to the six domains of restoration: (1) Safety; (2) Legal protection; (3) Mental well-being; (4) Economic empowerment and education; (5) Social support; (6) Physical well-being. The aftercare journey starts with the moment of rescue, followed by an assessment of the needs of the survivor, the rehabilitation, and finally the reintegration in the community where the survivor can thrive and be safe from revictimisation.
- The **Trauma-Informed Care** (TIC) is an approach, or framework, for service providers working with survivors of trauma and it refers to how service providers think about and respond to survivors. Trauma-informed crisis intervention from law enforcement and social workers is critical to ensure that a survivor of online CSEA is supported through the rescue and removal from an abusive situation. The way in which services are delivered can help avoid re-traumatisation and re-victimisation and can support the creation of safe spaces for survivors so they can take advantage of all available resources.
- **Multidisciplinary Case Management** includes *Multi-Disciplinary Rescue Teams* where social workers support police-led rescue operations to provide crisis intervention care; and, *Multi-Disciplinary Case Conferences* where social workers, police and prosecutors create a post-rescue survivor-centered case management plan. Once a child is removed from a situation of abuse, she/he is taken to a temporary processing center or a safe space where inquest proceedings will be ongoing for 36 hours.

IJM has also invested in trauma-informed prosecution innovation like for example Videotaped In-Depth Interviews (VIDI) developed in collaboration with aftercare providers. VIDI are video recorded interview of a

survivor conducted by trained members of a multidisciplinary team or representatives of law enforcement and child protective services. When conducted and recorded properly, VIDIs are admissible as evidence and can be presented in lieu of live victim testimony during trial so to protect survivors from re-traumatisation and revictimisation.

Key contacts
- **John Tanagho**: jtanagho@ijm.org

Resources
- Validation study for the Aftercare Successful Outcomes (ASO), tool using the six aftercare domains.
- IJM, Assessment of Survivor Outcomes Guidance Manual, 2018.

(iv) United Kingdom

Daniel Laskey-Heard, International Programme Manager at the Marie Collins Foundation (MCF), shared the United Kingdom's experience in providing services for child victims of online CSEA and other forms of violence while ensuring inter-agency communication and collaboration.

The introduction of the Children's Act 2004 set out to better regulate intervention in children's interests and strengthened the requirement for cooperation, by placing new duties on key service providers at the local level. Moreover, a comprehensive framework for collaboration is outlined in the statutory guidance called Working Together to Safeguard Children which recognises that keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility and key agencies need to ensure inter-agency communication, collaboration and coordination of responses. The international dimension of inter-agency collaboration needed to tackle online CSEA is outlined in the '4P' response framework (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare) as part of the UK Serious Organised Crime Strategy.

The statutory guidance also specifies that the child should be kept 'front and centre' of all decision-making and outlines the legal obligations and timescales for practitioners to respond, differentiated by the specific level of need of the child (from access to universal support services for children at least risk to more targeted and specialist support). It also fosters a culture of learning across agencies and outlines the established protocols and procedures to ensure accountability, so that each agency clearly understands their specific role in delivery of a holistic response. It is important to note that the impact and specific vulnerabilities of online CSEA require a differentiated response from practitioners to ensure victims' recovery.

In such context, MCF developed a training model called Click Path to Protection to enable all professionals working with victims of online CSEA to support practitioners in not addressing 'WHAT' they can do, but really understanding 'HOW' they can effectively adapt their practice, to meet the recovery needs of children abused online. The training describes the positive impact each agency can make, from the point of the initial report being made and moving through the end-to-end journey through the police investigation, through the court process, from discovery to recovery, in ensuring professional practice does not negatively impact on the victims' ability to recover. With support from the End Violence Fund, MCF will adapt this training model for global delivery and support international partners in implementing it around the world.

Key contacts
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- **Simon Mason**: smason@mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk

Update from the End Violence Global Partnership and Fund

- The Technology Coalition launched Project Protect, a new initiative to end violence against children online. The project aims to develop the structure, membership models, and staffing needed to drive change and build a resource for the whole technology industry dedicated to preventing and eradicating online CSEA. End Violence will be the lead partner for the research arm of the Project Protect which will focus

on funding research to advance understanding of patterns of online CSEA. Visit End Violence [website](#) to learn more about this collaboration.

- The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued the [Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#) which calls upon the global community to address issues such as digital connectivity, digital inclusion, human rights, artificial intelligence, and trust and security, as well as digital cooperation mechanisms and models. For the first time, a document of this kind includes a specific call out to strengthen collaboration and invest more resources to end online CSEA.

- End Violence is coordinating with key partners to produce a resource package to accompany the [COVID-19 technical note on keeping children protected online](#). The resource package will support key stakeholders to implement the technical note at country level, and it will be released in July 2020.

- The latest End Violence funding round focusing on [leveraging technologies to tackle online CSEA](#) is progressing well and a new cohort of grantees will join the End Violence community soon; a public announcement will be made in the next few months.

- The [Safe to Learn](#) initiative released [Reopening Schools Safely: Recommendations for building back better to end violence against children in and through schools](#) which provides governments with a set of priority actions to consider as part of their reopening plan to ensure safe and inclusive learning environments. Jordan, Jamaica and Lebanon recently signed the Safe to Learn call to action taking the total number to 15 countries.

- The [Global Status Report](#) on preventing violence against children was released for the first time by WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the End Violence Global Partnership. The report charts progress in 155 countries against the INSPIRE framework, a set of seven strategies for preventing and responding to violence against children. The report signals a clear need in all countries to scale up efforts to implement those strategies.

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