



CHILDREN NEED OUR PROTECTION AGAINST TRAFFICKERS AND SEX OFFENDERS ONLINE

Children around the world are more vulnerable to online sexual exploitation than ever before. The threat only grows as offenders devise ways to escape detection.



The pandemic exacerbated the vulnerability of children. COVID-19 lockdowns created the perfect storm for increases in online sexual exploitation of children.¹



In 2020, 65.4 million images, videos, and other files related to child sexual exploitation were reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.²



Global law enforcement consistently identify livestreamed child sexual abuse as a critical and growing threat to children.

With cross-sector global collaboration to improve detection, reporting, and justice system responses, together we can protect children from livestreamed child sexual abuse and hold offenders accountable.



FINANCIAL SERVICES

Use of robust detection systems by financial institutions can detect, disrupt, and gather data on suspicious payments by offenders for the sexual abuse of children that creates new child sexual exploitation materials.



SAFETY INNOVATIONS

Client or on-device image, video, and livestream classifiers can be used to disrupt CSEM production and sharing, thus preventing new abuse and exploitation. Cross-sector data collaboration can enhance detection models.



EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Cooperation among governments, NGOs, and industry leverages diverse expertise and leads to maximum impact.

WHAT WE DO

THE CENTER SUPPORTS THE GLOBAL RESPONSE AGAINST ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN LEVERAGING EFFECTIVE PRACTICES FROM IJM'S PHILIPPINES PROGRAM



1 Supports effective justice system responses in source and demand-side countries.

Project Needlestack

In 2021, the Center launched Project Needlestack, a 3-year grant-funded project to support law enforcement responses to CyberTipline reports in Malaysia and the Philippines

Publication of Case Studies and Learnings

The Center published [Behind the Screens](#), an analysis of case studies in effective international collaboration to combat the supply and demand crime of CSEM production, including via livestreaming.

Transnational Collaboration: Demand-side Survivor Representation

The Center partnered with law firm Jones Day to secure victim compensation from an Australian man convicted for viewing and paying for livestreamed child sexual abuse of Filipino children. Read the press release [here](#).

Summary Paper Published

In October 2020, the Center published [Falling Short: Demand-side Sentencing for Online Sexual Exploitation of Children](#) Composite

Case Review, Analysis, and Recommendations for the United Kingdom to call for more effective offender accountability.

Global Expert Roundtable

Hosted in June 2021 by WeProtect Global Alliance and IJM's Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children, this virtual roundtable gathered experts to explore the overlap between child trafficking and online sexual abuse and exploitation. Read the Outcomes Briefing [here](#).

2 Improves technology and financial sector detection and reporting of livestreamed child sexual exploitation, all resulting in sustainable protection for children and accountability for perpetrators.

Innovative Technologies

At IJM's Global Virtual Summit, the Center highlighted tech innovations to detect and disrupt CSEM production, including via livestreaming, through a panel discussion with SafeToNet, Yubo, and TwoHat. Partnerships to support innovations are ongoing.

White Paper Published

In December 2020, the Center published the white paper, [Tech and Financial Sector Indicators of Livestreaming Online Sexual Exploitation of Children](#).

Collaboration to Improve Detection

The Center partnered with other non-government organizations to develop a privacy-protecting data collaboration platform to strengthen detection of non-image indicators related to online sexual exploitation of children across both tech and financial sector companies.

Scale of Harm Project

The [Scale of Harm research project](#) was launched in 2021, in collaboration with University of Nottingham's Rights Lab and an advisory council of experts in the field, to develop a methodology that will estimate the prevalence of the trafficking of children to create child sexual exploitation materials. This breakthrough mixed-method research approach will be implemented in the Philippines throughout 2022 and made scalable across countries.

OUR KEY PARTNERS

WE WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS, TECH AND FINANCIAL SECTORS, AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

GOVERNMENTS

Law enforcement and policy

As governments prioritize protecting children through strengthened justice systems and policies, more victims receive protection, justice, and healing; and widespread industry use of tech innovations, automated detection and reporting of child exploitation is encouraged.



TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL SECTORS

Detection

The Center partners with tech and financial companies to improve detection, disruption, and reporting of livestreamed child sexual exploitation and related suspicious financial transactions.



NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Launching initiatives

The Center builds models and products to help NGOs improve their capacity and systems for child protection.

IJM'S CENTER TO END ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

The Center operates globally, with a strong base in the Philippines—both a source of CSEM production and a leader with a whole-society response.



We need more people in the fight to end the online sexual exploitation of children. Perpetrators are powerful. But you are powerful, too, and we are more powerful together. We need you.

Joy (a pseudonym)
IJM SURVIVOR LEADER

THE CENTER HELPS SURVIVORS RAISE THEIR VOICES TO CALL FOR GLOBAL CHILD PROTECTION



As a child I was sexually exploited online: now I want tech companies and governments to take action.

Ruby (a pseudonym)
IJM SURVIVOR LEADER

The time to act is now. Victims have waited long enough.

Imagine being a child, trapped inside a stranger's house. You are not allowed to go to school, or to visit home – or even to go outside. Instead, you are forced to perform sexual acts for offenders who pay to watch over the internet.

That's what happened to me when I was just fifteen.

Most online sexual exploitation of children occurs on mainstream tech platforms. We need tech companies to urgently prioritise the detection of this content – particularly in its most hidden forms, like livestreaming.

We need governments in demand-side countries to be part of the solution...To truly see an end to the online sexual abuse of children, we need to see collaboration across society: from the tech industry, to civil society, to the financial sector, to law enforcement.

When I was trapped inside that house, every day I waited to be found was a day too long. That's why... demand-side countries should not wait to act: we have waited long enough.

(The above excerpt is from [Ruby's story](#) as published by Thomson Reuters Foundation.)



Ruby is a survivor leader at International Justice Mission committed to raising awareness on online sexual exploitation of children. She was exploited as a child, and now an adult, she is calling for governments and technology companies to take action to eradicate this crime.



Ruby received the Community Spirit & Public Service Award at the 2021 Women of the Future Awards Southeast Asia in October 2021.



Ruby's story is highlighted in the Global Threat Assessment (GTA) Report 2021 by WeProtect Global Alliance.

[Learn more about Ruby's work as a survivor leader at IJM.](#)

IJM'S CENTER TO END ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN supports IJM Philippines' mission in protecting children from online sexual exploitation of children and scaling protection globally through: (1) improving technology and financial sector detection and reporting of livestreamed child sexual exploitation, (2) increasing accountability in demand-side countries, and (3) sharing IJM's model to end online sexual exploitation of children with governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders, resulting in sustainable protection for children and accountability for perpetrators.

CONTACT US

For inquiries directed to IJM's Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children, email endosec@ijm.org or [drop us a message](#).

