

THE LINK

The Official Newsletter of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)

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FOCUS TOPIC:

International Responses to Child Abduction

Professionals in all countries struggle to define child maltreatment and determining the most appropriate response. To promote greater dialogue among our members regarding effective ways to address child abuse and neglect, we have established a regular case review feature. In each issue, we ask representatives from several countries to share with readers how professionals and community advocates in their country might respond to a specific case. In this issue, we explore the problem of child abduction.

It is estimated that millions of children around the world are abducted and forced to leave their families. While a disturbing proportion of children abducted in developing countries will be taken outside their homeland to serve in rebel armies or to work as prostitutes, the majority of abductions in the industrialized countries involve family members and other caretakers. ISPCAN colleagues were invited to share with LINK readers how professionals in their country address this latter aspect of child abduction. Colleagues in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States provided their thoughts on the case presented below.

A Case of Child Abduction and Recovery

Last December, a mother left her child in the care of a 15-year-old babysitter. When the mother returned home, the child and babysitter were gone. When the mother was unable to locate either the child or the babysitter, she called the police.

The local police department had been provided with what is called a "lost child alert technology resource system" through a government/NGO partnership. This system allowed the police department to produce posters on a massive scale and provided to the local news station. Following a news broadcast, an anonymous caller contacted police and said she had given a ride to the babysitter and the child, not realizing the child was missing. She provided the address of the apartment complex to where she had driven the babysitter and child. The police located the apartment number and the child was quickly recovered. An interview with the babysitter revealed her intent to abduct the child, rather than a misunderstanding with the child's mother.

ISPCAN Colleagues Respond

How common is it in your country for a child to be abducted by someone the parent knows and trusts?

Each year in Australia approximately 15,000 people aged under 18 are reported missing. While 99.5% are located, most within hours, the impact on families, friends and the missing people themselves is devastating. There are approximately 700 kidnappings or abductions reported each year in Australia with approximately twice as many females as males. In cases not involving a family member, 40% of the offenders are known to the victim prior to the abduc-

tion, to include those fulfilling babysitting duties.

In the U.K. it is quite common for a perpetrator to abduct a child in an attempt to cover up sexual abuse, or, with babies, cases of Munchausen's syndrome.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) there are nearly 800,000 children reported missing each year, or more than 2,000 children per day. Of these children, the majority of which are run-aways, 203,900 children are the victims of family abductions and 58,200 children are abducted by nonfamily members.

In such cases, would you expect law enforcement in your country to respond in a similar way?

In Australia, the U.K., and the U.S., law enforcement in each country would respond in a similar manner by widely publicizing a description of the child and the offender, if known. In the areas surrounding the abduction, police will often set up a visible presence to seek assistance from the public and to distribute photos. The police are likely to act quickly with press conferences, searches, and interviews of the possible witnesses and potential suspects.

Does your country have a specific organization or policy that addresses the problem of missing children? If so, how well does it work?

The National Missing Persons Unit (NMPU) of Australia, funded by the Commonwealth Government, delivers an integrated approach nationally to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons and informs senior law-enforcement, government and community decision-makers about issues relating to missing persons (www.missingpersons.info.au). The NMPU provides the over-arching direction, coordination, and facilitation of missing person issues and works in partnership with law enforcement, Commonwealth and state government agencies, tracing organizations, and the community. Their role also involves increasing public awareness and the marketing of critical issues in missing persons, including national coordination of campaigns such as National Missing Persons Week. Although the NMPU may become involved in child abduction cases involving an offender who is not a family member, the case is most likely to be the primary responsibility of special criminal investigation squads of the relevant state police service or the Australian Federal Police.

In the U.K. there have been policies developed regarding children who go missing from local authority care and children drawn into prostitution, but work in the field is very patchy. The police do not treat child prostitutes as victims, but get frustrated by the inability of social service agencies to respond quickly, particularly during non-business hours.

In the U.S., the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is a non-profit agency mandated by the U.S. Congress to work in cooperation with the U.S. OJJDP to address



Dear Colleagues, Chers Collègues, Queridos Colegas,

These are exciting times for ISPCAN as more and more alliances are being forged and our members are more involved in a multitude of activities directed at child abuse prevention.

The number of National Partners is growing.

We now have 16 partners with the two newest additions being the Africa Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) in Nigeria and the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NASPCAN) located in Sweden and covering the Nordic Region. ISPCAN is actively involved with these organizations in their conferences, such as the recent APSAC Colloquium in Orlando, Florida and the BASPCAN Conference in York, England. Joint planning efforts also are underway with respect to the 2004 International Congress in Brisbane, the 2005 European Conference in Berlin and the 2006 International Congress in York. Working with our National Partners is and promises to be increasingly a mutually beneficial alliance that will extend the reach that all these organizations. It is my pleasure to recognize particularly the efforts of Tilman Furniss, Chair of the ISPCAN Executive Council's Congress and Conference Committee and our Executive Director, Kimberly Svevo, in moving these relationships forward.

The Intersectoral Approach to Child Maltreatment Prevention at the Country Level has now completed its redraft and should shortly be available on the ISPCAN members' web page. The sections that will be available will be the Core, Health, Legal and Social Sectors. In keeping with the WHO World Report on Violence and Health this tool emphasizes both prevention and multidisciplinary cooperation. It is based on the public health approach and children's rights. This version is about to be presented at the August 2003 European Conference in Warsaw, Poland and will now go for broader consultation to experts in all of WHO's regions around the world, as well as to ISPCAN's Expert Faculty. It is anticipated that this broader consultation will contribute to informing the cultural sensitivity of this tool and make it useful in all settings as has been intended from its inception.

The International Training Project of ISPCAN (ITPI) is moving forward successfully under the leadership of Irene Intebi, Chair of the ISPCAN Executive Council's Training Committee. At this point projects in Kenya, South Africa, Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil and Argentina are reaching their 3-year mark and we are hopeful that funding can be extended to include a number of other countries. We are very grateful to those country project leaders whose commitment and excellent work make this success possible. We are currently in the process of developing useful and meaningful evaluation criteria for these projects with the very able help of ISPCAN Executive Councillor Deborah Daro.

My sincere good wishes for ongoing success in your work. Buen trabajo. Bon travail.

Regards,

Marcellina Mian, M.D., Canada

National Partner Program connects Japan & France

The ISPCAN National Partner Program is creating multiple opportunities for professionals to better understand the challenges involved in addressing child maltreatment within different cultural contexts.

Recently, this type of professional exchange occurred between members of JASPCAN (Japanese Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and AFIREM (French Society for Information and Research on Child Abuse and Neglect).

Dr. Ichiro Matsui, Director of the Department of Information and Research of the Children's Rainbow Center (CRC) in Yokohama, and Mr. Jun Saimura, a specialist in social work with children at the Japan Child and Family Research Institute in Tokyo, were asked by the Japanese Ministry to conduct a field survey regarding child abuse in Germany and France. Because both of these individuals are active in the JASPCAN (Japanese Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect), the first place they sought help was from fellow ISPCAN National Partners, AFIREM.

The JASPCAN professionals and their interpreter traveled to Paris on 9 July 2003 and met with a number of AFIREM members at the Sick Children's Hospital. AFIREM members participating in the meeting included Nicole Ageneau, Social Worker; Dominique Girodet, Pediatrician; Caroline Mignot, Pediatrician; Anne Tardy, Children's Judge; and Gaby Taub, Social Worker and ISPCAN Councillor.

Individual introductions were followed by a brief presentation of JASPCAN and of AFIREM. The participants then proceeded to discuss a wide variety of subjects, from both the Japanese and the French point of view, including:

- * incidence of child abuse;
- * definition of child abuse;
- * administrative protection of children at risk;
- * judiciary protection of children in danger;
- * respective roles of different professionals in a multidisciplinary approach;
- * evaluation;
- * reporting;
- * treatment;
- * primary prevention;
- * training; and
- * role and function of organizations such as JASPCAN and AFIREM

In the course of the ensuing discussion, similarities and differences in the French and Japanese approach to child abuse and neglect were identified. Despite the cultural differences and the language barrier amongst the participants, communication flowed freely and a common professional culture facilitated mutual understanding.

AFIREM offered the Japanese delegation a number of AFIREM publications including the professional journal "Les Cahiers de l'AFIREM," proceedings of past AFIREM congresses, and a number of pedagogical tools developed by AFIREM.

All those present expressed the desire to extend this first contact through e-mail exchanges between JASPCAN and AFIREM as well as through future ISPCAN National Partner meetings.

Gaby Taub, MSW

Membership Chair, ISPCAN, Secretary, AFIREM, France

New National Partners Offer a Profile

In 1999, ISPCAN launched the National Partner Program, establishing affiliations with national child abuse and neglect prevention organizations around the world to further the common mission of ISPCAN and its partners. At present, 16 organizations have joined this program. The following provides brief descriptions of the two of these Partner agencies that have yet to be introduced to the membership via The LINK.

German Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN)

The German Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN)'s mission is to prevent all forms of child abuse and neglect towards children and to support all professionals involved in the work.

The Society aims to foster a multi-professional approach towards treating and supporting the victims of all forms of child abuse and neglect; to develop new forms of integrated prevention and intervention approaches; and to support multi-professional cooperation between the public and the private sector and NGOs in their efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The organization coordinates training and other educational programs in the pursuit of its goals and objectives. This includes conferences, training and educational activity, and public and professional awareness campaigns. GESPCAN also publishes materials on child abuse and neglect in the German language.

The governing structure of GESPCAN is made up of the President, Chair, Treasurer, and other board members at large. The officers are elected for a duration of four years for the President, and six years for other officers. The organization is duly registered according to the laws of Germany and was incorporated in 1994.

Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children (MAPC) and (Persatuan Perlindungan Kanak-Kanak Malaysia - PPKM)

Established in Kuala Lumpur in 1994, the Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children (Persatuan Perlindungan Kanak-Kanak Malaysia - PPKM) works to maintain and promote knowledge on all issues relating to the protection of children. MAPC's objectives are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Over the past few years, the main foci of MAPC's ongoing work has been the prevention of sexual abuse among preschool children; raising the Malaysian community's awareness of child abuse and neglect cases and the UNCRC; and the development of child friendly cities. MAPC believes that all sectors of society need to be involved in protecting children. They see a need not only to sensitize the public about the child abuse problem but also to train and impart skills to professionals, governmental and non-governmental officers.

To achieve its mission MAPC operates an education and training program that provides a range of presentations, seminars, conferences and exhibitions to advance knowledge and to provide ongoing training for the child protection sector. The Association also publishes materials related to child protection, makes recommendations or advises relevant authorities on matters relating to child welfare, and

ISPCAN's National Partners include the following organizations:

- Against Child Abuse (ACA), **Hong Kong**;
- Association Française pour l'Information et la Recherche sur les Enfants Maltraités (AFIREM), **France**;
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), **Ethiopia**;
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), **Nigeria**;
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), **Uganda**;
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), **United States**;
- British Society for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN), **United Kingdom**;
- Cameroon Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CASPCAN), **Cameroon**;
- Danish Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (DASPCAN), **Denmark**;
- German Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN), **Germany**;
- Japanese Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (JASPCAN), **Japan**;
- Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children (PPKM), **Malaysia**;
- National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), **Australia**;
- National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NASCAN), **Sweden**;
- National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN), **Belize**; and
- South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCAN), **South Africa**.

works with other national and international bodies concerned with the protection of children.

MAPC is governed by a nine member Committee, elected at each annual general meeting. At present membership is comprised of pediatricians, lawyers, child development specialists, psychologists, psychiatrists, educators, and NGO workers drawn from eight of the 13 Malaysian states.

International Responses to Child Abduction

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the issue of child abduction. NCMEC utilizes a combination of technology and communications to recover missing children in cooperation with law enforcement agencies. Resources include a national computer network, a missing child alert system, and a 24-hour toll free hotline to facilitate the recovery of missing children. NCMEC distributes photos and posters of children through satellite technology to news agencies and television programs and involves the private sector, such as sponsoring department stores, corporations, mailing services, and magazines, to recover children.

For example, in the case presented, which was handled in the state of Arizona, the police department used a Lost Child Alert Technology Resource system provided by the NCMEC and the OJJDP in combination with mass communications to quickly

recover the child. NCMEC has worked with law enforcement on 89,599 missing child cases resulting in the recovery of 73,351 children.

Conclusions

Law enforcement, the media, and individual citizens can work together to improve child protection. We would like to know about the problem of child abduction and interventions in your country. Let us know through the ISPCAN listserv by addressing your e-mail to ispcan@lists.neton-line.com

Adam Tomison, Australian Institute of Family Studies
Gaynor Rosier, British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
Ron Laney, U.S. Department of Justice
Michele Johnson, LINK Associate Editor, USA

Newsletter Moving to An Electronic Format

Since its inception in 1992, *The LINK* newsletter has been distributed to the membership as part of the regular mailings of *Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal*. While this system has insured that all of our members receive *The LINK*, relying on distribution with the Journal has extended the time between the production of each issue and its delivery to members.

Beginning in 2004, we are considering publishing *The LINK* as an electronic newsletter and distributing it to members through the ISPCAN web site. When new issues are available on the web page, all members will be notified via the listserv. This approach will allow us to expand the scope of each issue and provide members with more current information on the organization and its National Partners. An electronic delivery system will also reduce the costs associated with printing *The LINK*.

We recognize that all members do not have ready access to the Internet and some may be unable to easily print out copies of *The LINK* off our web site. Consequently, we anticipate continuing to print a limited number of "hard copies" of *The LINK* for distribution to those members who request a copy.

Before implementing this change, the Council is interested in hearing from any members who are concerned about receiving *The LINK* via the Internet. To be sure your opinions are reflected in the Council decision making process, please address the following questions either in an e-mail to ispcan@ispcan.org or by mailing your comments to Attn: *LINK*, 25W560 Geneva Rd., Suite L2C, Carol Stream, IL 60188, USA.

Are you on the ISPCAN listserv?

Yes No

Would you be able to access *The LINK* via the ISPCAN web page?

Yes No

Would you be able to print out a copy of *The LINK* from the web page?

Yes No

If "hard copies" of *The LINK* were available, would you prefer to have them mailed directly to you or continue to be inserted in the *Child Abuse and Neglect*?

Mailed directly to me

Mailed to me with the JOURNAL

Does not matter how it is mailed

Do you currently use the on-line Membership Directory ?

Yes No

Do you plan to participate in the ISPCAN September 2003 web-based Virtual Issues Discussion on Mandatory Reporting?

Yes No

Welcome to new ISPCAN Secretariat staff! Additional staff to help expand and support member services

The ISPCAN Secretariat has been bustling with new faces and energy this summer!

First, Jim Hazen, previously Communications Manager, has been promoted to Membership Manager, charged with Membership Services and the National Partner Program supporting the Membership Committee.

We are also pleased to introduce three new staff members to our team:

Communications Coordinator Lisa Baker will be working with the Publications, Research & Information (PRI) Committee on the List-serv, web pages, awards, various publications, local volunteers and Council documentation/handbooks as well as all general member and external communications.

Peter Laabs, part-time Financial Manager/Accounting, has been making some important process and quality improvements in ISPCAN's financial management and reporting, and will support the ISPCAN Financial Committee.

(New Position) Event Manager Tatyana Bessonov, will manage our ISPCAN International Congresses, and provide support for Regional Conferences and other special Educational Institutes supporting the Congress/Conference Committee.

Former Membership Manager, Dornubari John-Miller resigned in June to pursue other Human Rights work, but will come in periodically to volunteer with the African Regional Conference in Nigeria!

Also supporting ongoing ISPCAN Executive Director Kimberly Svevo and Education/Fundraising Manager Anna Quintanilla (working with the Education, Training, and Consultation Committee) are part-time students: Adzure McCullough, Noel Massamba and Carol Hernandez!



Back Row: Jim Hazen, Pete Laabs, Lisa Baker, Adzure McCullough

Front Row: Tatyana Bessonov, Anna Quintanilla, Kimberly Svevo, Carol Hernandez, Shoaab Ansari (volunteer), Noel Massamba

Multidisciplinary Training Program on Child Abuse and Neglect Conducted in India

In partnership with local professionals, ISPCAN recently sponsored the first multidisciplinary training program on child abuse and neglect for NGO personnel in India. One program was organized by the Government Medical College, Nagpur, in February, while the second training program was organized by the Metropolitan (Bypass) Institute for Developmental Studies and Welfare, also in February in Kolkata. The program at Government Medical College was inaugurated by Additional Police Commissioner of Nagpur, and in Kolkata the same program was inaugurated by a former Supreme Court Judge. Dr. Sibnath Deb and Dr. Dipty Jain worked together as Joint Training Coordinators.

Program Objectives

The broad objectives of the training program were:

- To sensitize NGO personnel about the severity and magnitude of child abuse and neglect in India.
- To provide basic information about this issue, i.e., types of child abuse and neglect, causes and consequences.
- To provide information about existing legal measures available in the country in regard to child abuse and neglect.
- To provide information about current CAN activities in India undertaken by various government and non-government organizations.
- To share experience of various social activists and professionals on child abuse and neglect.
- To develop a network for strengthening CAN activities in India.

Topics

Topics covered during the training included a general overview of child abuse and neglect as well as in-depth presentations of specific aspects of the child abuse problem such as child physical abuse, sexual abuse, child trafficking, child labor and street children. The program also explored the existing legal and social measures available in the country to meet the needs of victims and

their families. Finally, sessions also were held on children's rights and strategies for improve communication and coordination of efforts among NGOs and government organizations.

Each of these topics was addressed by the experienced medical professionals, psychologists, social activists, psychiatrists and law enforcement personnel like police and the Chairman of Human Rights Commission. All the invited resource persons delivered very informative and thought-provoking lecture followed by stimulating discussion. During the second day of each training, NGO personnel shared their practical experiences in dealing with abused and neglected children and suggested remedial measures.

Recommendations

On the basis of the discussion in the training program in both the centers, the following points emerged:

- NGO personnel unanimously agreed that emphasis should be given to create social awareness among a cross-section of the people.
- A strong need was felt to fight child abuse and neglect in India through a partnership approach.
- Periodic meeting of NGO personnel to develop need-based strategy for addressing child abuse and neglect issue.
- Multi-centric study should be carried out on issues such as the nature and magnitude of child abuse and neglect across the society covering both rural and urban areas.
- Assessment study on efficacy of various intervention programs.
- Action research for rehabilitation of abused children (sexually and physically abused and street children).
- A national society for prevention of child abuse and neglect will be formed in India at the end of this year.

Meetings were again held in Nagpur and Kalkuta in June/July and a National Society start-up meeting will be held in August!

Sibnath Deb, India

ISPCAN Upcoming Calendar of Events

ISPCAN Training Workshops

South Asian Regional Workshop on CAN

Dates: November, 2003

Venue: (Tentative) Calcutta, India

Description: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Updates will be posted on the website www.ispcan.org

ISPCAN Global Institute 2004

At San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment

Theme: Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking - International Perspectives

Dates: 26 January, 2004

Venue: San Diego, CA, USA

Organized by: ISPCAN

Contact: Anna Quintanilla at education@ispcan.org

1st ISPCAN Arab Regional Conference on CAN

Theme: Child Protection in the Arab World: Practices and Policies

Dates: February 2004

Venue: Amman, Jordan

Description: The main topics are: Child abuse and neglect, Does it exist in the Arab Countries? Child Rights in Islam. Detection and Management of CAN, a multi-disciplinary approach. Prevention of CAN, (Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention.)

Chairperson: Ms Maha Khatib General Director Jordan River Foundation. Dr Hala Hammad, (Deputy Chairperson), Dr Hani Jahshan, (Secretary)

Contact: Dr. Hani Jahshan and Dr. Hala Hammad

E-mails: jahshan@go.com. or halah@jrf.org.jo

ISPCAN African Regional Conference on CAN

Theme: Child Trafficking and Child Sexual Abuse in Africa

Dates: March 2004

Venue: Enugu, Nigeria

Description: With the relentless spread of AIDS, denial of protection, developmental and participatory rights of children, the conference will provide and opportunity to develop, communicate, and share knowledge, skills and expertise for all professionals in the field of child protection in Africa.

Contact: Prof. Peter Ebigbo

E-mail: pebigbo@infoweb.abs.net

ISPCAN 15th International Congress

Dates: 19-22 September 2004

Venue: Brisbane, Australia

Organized by: International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (National Partner of ISPCAN)

Theme: "We want to share ideas and experiences from across the global community about protecting children and in a way that welcomes children and young people as valued participants."

Congress registration contact information:

SECRETARIAT OFFICE

C/- ICMS PO Box 3496 South Brisbane Qld 4101 Australia

Tel: + 61 7 3844 1138

Fax: +61 7 3844 0909

Email: ispcan2004@icms.com.au

Website: <http://www.congress2004.com>

DONOR RECOGNITION**Recognizing Contributions of Time and Resources during April 2003 - August 2003**

ISPCAN Honorary Ambassador
(contributions of \$ 50,000 & Above)

The Oak Foundation**ICCO: Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation**

ISPCAN Distinguished Benefactors
(contributions of US \$15,000 - \$49,999)

U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Ron Laney)**Global Ministries/Children at Risk****UNICEF - New York (International)****ALCOA Foundation**

ISPCAN Donors
(contributions of US \$2,500 - \$14,999)

World Health Organization International**The Center for Child Protection at Children's Hospital - San Diego, CA****Microsoft Corporation****Illinois Women's Funding Federation****Target Stores**

ISPCAN Individual & Corporate Donors
(contributions of US \$500 - \$2,499)

Norton Antivirus (Symantec)**Desmond Runyan****Kimberly Svevo-Cianci****US Bank**

ISPCAN Friends (Contributions of \$35 - \$499)

Kate Bowman
David Lucey

Matt Malone
Jessica Stubbs

Susan D. Samuel
Julius A. Anifowose

ISPCAN Volunteers

Shoaa Ansari
Wayne Arner
Tatiana Balachova
Tuche Bayram
Andrea Pontes de
Carvalho
Jessica Cianci
Rebecca Cianci

Nicole Fabry
Germaine Gill
Carol Hernandez
Mark Laabs
Matt Malone
Chris Mollet
Erin Okamoto
Stephanie Prokop

Larry Sanders
Abi Schiffleger
Greg Thompson
Gloria Varona-Williams
Kristina Wyrer

NEW ISPCAN MEMBERS

ISPCAN warmly welcomes new members joining from April 2003 through July 2003

Argentina

Florencia Kiguel

Australia

Jacinta Bunfield
Pauline Charman
John Gavranish
Ian Humphrey
Ross Homel
Christine A. Norrie
Jo Spangaro

Belgium

Katrien Verhegge

Brazil

Gary Barker
Evelyn Eisenstein
Geraldinho Vieira

Canada

Gloia Jeliu
Susan Kime
Lorrie Kostelyk

China

Fong Man Tat

Croatia

Tamara Zakuca Desnica

Denmark

Bodil Dichow
Helle Nielson

England

Sarah Elizabeth Green

India

Koustuv Dalal
Julius Sathiseelan

Israel

Susan Hani Ghosheh
Yadgar Shmaia Smadar

Kenya

Heather Macey

Malawi

Mathew Matewere

Mongolia

Khoroldulam Yumchmaa

Netherlands

Aafke Scharloo

Nigeria

Patience A. Nwamuo

Norway

Eli Knudsen Ingenes

Poland

Liliana Bednarczyk

Katarzyna Fenik

Marzena Kordaczuk-Was

Danuta Piekut-Brodzka

Miroslaw Slesinski

Grazyna Szabelska

Spain

Gonzalo Olivan Gonzalvo

Turkey

Yasemin Karaman Kepenekci

Uganda

Fred Kalyowa

Christopher Wakiraza

UK

Choy Cheam
Manjula Govindshenoy
Peter Grady
Stephen Gregory
Martina Higgins
Steve Myers
Gillian Palmer
John Parkin

USA

Todd M. Ahearn
Eric Bugaieski
Lawrence E. Busching
Bill Cohen
Cathy Crabtree
Amy Damashek
Marc Dubin
Carolyn Gilbert
Stephen Gregory
Michael Hog
Katherine Howard
Stephanie Johnson
Ruth Kahurananga
Wanda Karriker
Louanne Lawson
Larry J. Mathews
Sangita Rangala
Mary Ellen Schaid
Anne F. Taverne
Nicole Taylor
Pamela K. Turner
John E. Wright
Marc Yeadon

**ISPCAN Executive Council:
Call for Nominations**

ISPCAN is now accepting nominations for the 2004-2010 Executive Council positions (seven vacancies). Nominees must have been a member of ISPCAN in good standing (paid) for a period of one year prior to the closing of Nominations (since 1 November 2002) in order for the Nomination to be considered.

The Council should reflect the international and multi-disciplinary nature of the society. If you feel that you or someone you know would be a strong and motivated candidate for the ISPCAN council, please complete the nomination/nominator applications available on our website at www.ispcan.org.

All nomination forms must be received by the Nominations Committee by 1 November 2003. Attn: Nominations Committee, C/O ISPCAN Secretariat, 25 W. 560 Geneva Rd., Suite L2C, Carol Stream, IL 60188, USA.

For further information, please feel free to contact the ISPCAN Secretariat office by email membership@ispcan.org or by phone at 1.630.221.1311.

In Memory of Early Pioneer Stanislaw Tomkiewicz

Stanislaw Tomkiewicz, MD, Ancien Interne des Hopitaux de Paris, France, died recently. An early pioneer in the field of child abuse prevention and the abuse of children in institutions, Dr. Tomkiewicz served on the Editorial Board of *Child Abuse and Neglect* and presented the C. Henry Kempe Lectureship at the 1990 International Congress.

He called on those attending the Congress and those who provide services

to children to accept responsibility for improving conditions within those institutions. "It is our duty as social workers, physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists to enlarge more and more the concept of ill-treatment and lack of respect for the child. We must push back more and more the limits of what is to be considered as unbearable because it affects the child in his body, his mind and his dignity as a human being."

He concluded his lecture with a reminder that those engage in service to children must remember the reason we do this work - the love and respect for the child. If this concept is kept central in our thinking, "the fate of the children in the world - and at the same time the policy of our institutions will be gradually and slowly improved."

An Interview with ISPCAN Councillor Tilman Furniss



This is part of an ongoing series in The LINK to introduce ISPCAN members to the Society's leadership. Congress/Conference Committee Chair Tilman Furniss (Germany) is responsible for directing biennial ISPCAN International Congress efforts, through our National Host Organizing Committees, and for supporting ISPCAN endorsed Regional Conferences around the world (on the off-years from Congresses). Dr. Furniss has served as an ISPCAN Counselor since 1996.

1. What is your profession and what was the cause of your initial interest in child abuse?

I am a child and adolescent psychiatrist and Professor of Child Psychiatry at the University in Muenster, Germany. I have worked and lived in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. In addition to my medical degree, I also have a Masters Degree in Family Sociology, and it is in this context that first sparked my interest in child maltreatment in 1974. I attended the first Child Abuse Congress in Geneva and felt very much at home with this group of multidisciplinary professionals.

Having started my professional career in hard scientific work (e.g., cardiac membrane physiology), my child abuse work has led me to an entirely unexpected and increasing deeply satisfying area

of interest. I have been able to use my expertise from medicine, family sociology, child psychiatry, adult psychiatry, family therapy and psychodynamic therapy. Over the past 15 years, I have focused on behavioral and cognitive therapy with adolescent sex offenders.

2. In your opinion, has the situation for children in this world improved or deteriorated since your interest was awakened?

I don't know whether the situation for children has improved. We are certainly more aware of the problem and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has further advanced this awareness. In many respects (e.g., health care, legal status and social position), children are better off today than in the past. On the other hand, I believe we have more sexual exploitation of children, although we do not have the statistics to prove this problem has gotten worse. In wealthy countries we also may have more emotional abuse and neglect as a result of busy, two-career parents.

3. How did you originally learn about ISPCAN and how have you worked to increase ISPCAN's support to professionals around the world?

I learned about ISPCAN through Arend Koers, the first Dutch confidential doctor to take up Henry Kempe's work in Europe. Arend became my teacher, mentor, colleague, and inspiration. He was able to see the world through the eyes of the child, especially the young child, and still reserve some compassion for the abus-

(continued on page 8)

Message from the Secretariat



Dear ISPCAN Members,

Greetings. I hope you, your work with children and families, and, your own children and families - are doing well. To be most helpful to others we first need to balance our personal and professional obligations. So this is a simple reminder about the importance of our own balance.

I'm writing this column in transit from the BASPCAN (British) Conference (York, UK, 20-23 July) to the APSAC (American) National Colloquium (Orlando, USA, 23-26 July). Both of these events were well-organized, extremely valuable and included several ISPCAN Councillors as key presenters. More than 600 delegates attended the BASPCAN meeting, where Council members Danya Glaser, UK; Tilman Furniss, Germany; and Ruth Soonets, Estonia, presented on their work. Nearly 500 delegates are expected at the APSAC event where presentations will be made by ISPCAN President Marcellina Mian, ISPCAN president-elect Barbara Bonner and Council members Irene Intebi, Tilman Furniss and Jon Conte

(also APSAC President).

As ISPCAN's National Partners Program enters its third year, we are looking ahead to jointly developing programs. One exciting development is our increased opportunities to involve National Partners in ISPCAN's bi-annual International Congress. Next year, our 15th Annual International Congress will be hosted by NAPCAN, the National Society and ISPCAN partner in Australia. Planning for the event, which will be held in Brisbane in September 2004, is in full gear.

We are pleased to see significant commitment and start-up efforts in many other areas of the world, such as the Egyptian Society, which was licensed in July 2003; an Indian National Society that is holding its first organizational meeting in August 2003; the Argentinian National Society (first in South America) and Poland, which will inaugurate its National Society at the European Conference in August 2003.

In conjunction with the upcoming European Conference in Poland (29-31 August), ISPCAN will host a European National Partners Meeting facilitated by

Gaby Taub, Membership Committee Chair and Julie Todd, ISPCAN's Council liaison for the National Partner program. Both have a long history in developing and leading the professional societies in their countries (Gaby is a founding member of AFIREM in France and Julie is a key leader of SASPCAN in South Africa). ISPCAN will hold National Partner networking meetings and discussion forums at each International Congress and, if possible, at the various Regional Conferences supported by the Society.

If your national society is not a member of the ISPCAN National Partners' program or if you are interested in establishing a society in your country or region, please contact the ISPCAN office. One of our goals is to help insure that all professionals and others working in child protection systems have a structure that will facilitate communication with other professionals in their community/country as well as provide opportunities for strong training.

Kind regards,

Kimberly Svevo, CAE
ISPCAN Executive Director

An Interview with ISPCAN Councilor Tilman Furniss*(continued from page 7)*

ing parent. Although he never excused the parent's actions or diminished their responsibility, he could see that these parents also needed assistance.

I have been an ISPCAN member since its beginnings in 1977 and a member of the Executive Council since 1996. I felt very isolated from my colleagues in Amsterdam and the UK when I moved to Germany. Being on the ISPCAN Council has restored these international linkages and has helped me develop an increasingly well functioning and growing network of child abuse professionals in Germany. I also founded the Germany Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN), one of ISPCAN's National Partners.

4. In general, what are the key CAN issues that need to be addressed by professionals?

I see two major questions facing child abuse professionals today. First, having taught and consulted in more than 45 countries worldwide, I am still struggling to understand how to get the various disciplines working in child abuse, each with its own code of ethics, language, way of working, duties, techniques and views of the world to come together under a unified framework. Ideally, I would love to pick and choose the best from each country and each discipline to make the perfect model. Theoretically, we should be able to construct a composite response system that is better than any single effort currently underway today. This has been the structural challenge facing child abuse and neglect for the past 25 years.

As a former pupil and colleague of the late John Bowlby in

London, I think the second big question is how can we best protect children without secondary victimization. How can we take care of vulnerable souls and the attachments of children who need continuity of care and affection and at the same time remove these children from those who should provide this care and affection?

5. Do you feel that children will be increasingly served by the work of ISPCAN and its affiliates and partners in the next 5 years? 10 years? What will it take to improve their prospects for healthy and safe childhoods?

I believe the challenge facing ISPCAN is twofold: As the leading professional organization in the area of child abuse and neglect, ISPCAN needs to become an active, unifying force for integrating this diverse pool of activities into a strong, coordinated voice to build a more effective response to child abuse. At the same time, we need to recognize the importance of cultural variation and the need for unique, country-specific strategies. ISPCAN needs to bring people together but also provide respectful and thoroughly professional service to each of its members, who may live and work in utterly different circumstances.

If we can demonstrate that severe child abuse kills millions of neurons in a child's brain, if we can demonstrate that child abuse and neglect leads to life long attachment disorders and impaired personal functioning, if we can document the monetary costs of abuse, in dollars as well as human potential, then we will have established a strong incentive for all child abuse organizations to work together to prevent further child abuse and neglect of all children in all countries worldwide.

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