

LIVING LIBRARY OF COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE RESOURCES

When using these resources, it is important to consider cultural sensitivities, legal frameworks, and the specific needs of the communities being served. Additionally, seeking out local training programs and workshops can supplement online resources by providing practical skills and networking opportunities within the local context.

ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO GLOBAL CHILD PROTECTION

1. **Child Helpline International:**

- Offers resources and tools for professionals working with child victims of abuse, including online training modules.
- Website: [Child Helpline International](#)

2. **(CRIN) Child Rights International Network:**

- Provides resources, reports, and tools related to child rights, including protection from sexual abuse.
- Website: [Child Rights International Network \(CRIN\)](#)

3. **(D2L) Darkness to Light:**

- Darkness to Light offers comprehensive educational resources, training programs, and support materials aimed at equipping adults with the knowledge and tools to prevent child sexual abuse.
- Website: [Darkness to Light](#)

4. **ECPAT International:**

- ECPAT focuses on combating sexual exploitation of children, providing resources, reports, and training materials.
- Website: [ECPAT](#)

5. **The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children:**

- Provides resources, tools, and case studies to support collaborative responses to violence against children, including sexual abuse.
- Website: [End Violence Against Children](#)

6. **ICMEC (International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children):**

- Offers resources, research, and tools related to child sexual abuse prevention and response.
- Website: [ICMEC](#)

7. **ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect):**

- ISPCAN offers training materials, research articles, and conferences related to child abuse prevention and response.

- Website: [ISPCAN](#)

8. Out of the Shadows Global Index:

- The Out of the Shadows Global Index offers a comprehensive database and resources to track and analyze countries' efforts in addressing child sexual abuse, aiming to drive global action and policy change to protect children.
- Website: [Out of the Shadows Global Index](#)

9. Together for Girls

- The Together for Girls website offers data-driven insights, resources, and partnerships to address and prevent violence against children, particularly focusing on sexual violence and exploitation, through collaborative efforts worldwide.
- Website: [Together for Girls](#)

10. UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund):

- UNICEF's Child Protection section provides resources, reports, and guidelines on child protection issues including child sexual abuse.
- Website: [UNICEF Child Protection](#)

11. UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime):

- UNODC provides extensive resources, including publications, toolkits, and training materials on combating child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Suggested Resource Pages: [Justice for Children](#) and [Victim Support](#)

12. WHO (World Health Organization):

- WHO offers guidance documents, training materials, and reports on child abuse prevention and response.
- Suggested Resource: [Responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused: WHO Clinical Guidelines](#)

13. We Protect Global Alliance:

- The WeProtect Global Alliance website serves as a collaborative platform bringing together governments, law enforcement, tech companies, NGOs, and academia to combat online child sexual exploitation through advocacy, research, and sharing of best practices.
- Website: [WeProtect Global Alliance](#)

NATIONAL & REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO CHILD PROTECTION

National or regional organizations working on child protection within specific countries or regions often provide training, resources, and guidelines tailored to the local context and can be good sources of information in broader contexts.

1. Barnahus

- The Barnahus EU website offers information, guidance, and best practices for establishing and operating Barnahus, multidisciplinary centers that provide child-friendly services for child victims of violence, abuse, and trauma in a single, safe, and supportive environment.
- Website: [Barnahus EU](#)

2. Child Protection Hub for Southeast Europe:

- The Child Protection Hub for Southeast Europe provides a platform for sharing resources, best practices, and training materials on child protection.
- Website: [Child Protection Hub](#)

3. NCAC (National Children's Advocacy Center)

- The National Children's Advocacy Center offers training, resources, and advocacy to support Child Advocacy Centers and professionals working to respond effectively to child abuse while promoting healing and justice for child victims.
- Website: [National Children's Alliance](#)

4. NCA (National Children's Alliance)

- The National Children's Alliance provides support, resources, and accreditation for Child Advocacy Centers across the United States, facilitating a multidisciplinary approach to serving child victims of abuse and ensuring access to comprehensive care and justice.
- Website: [National Children's Alliance](#)

EVIDENCE BASED COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES

Barnahus Model:

- [NCA's National Standards of Accreditation - National Children's Alliance \(nationalchildrensalliance.org\)](#)
- [2023-Optional-Standards-Book.pdf \(nationalchildrensalliance.org\)](#)
- [2023-PSIP-BlueBook_v5_web.pdf \(nationalchildrensalliance.org\)](#)

Child Advocacy Center Model:

- [NCA's National Standards of Accreditation - National Children's Alliance \(nationalchildrensalliance.org\)](#)
- [2023-Optional-Standards-Book.pdf \(nationalchildrensalliance.org\)](#)
- [2023-PSIP-BlueBook_v5_web.pdf \(nationalchildrensalliance.org\)](#)

GLOBAL REPORTS

ISPCAN Resource

- [Disrupting Harm Conversations with Young Survivors About Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)

WHO Resource

- [INSPIRE: Seven strategies for Ending Violence Against Children](#)

CASE STUDIES & EXAMPLES OF DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES

1. Wessells, M. G. (2015). Bottom-up approaches to strengthening child protection systems: Placing children, families, and communities at the center. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 43, 8–21. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.04.006>

ONLINE COURSES, PODCASTS. AND WEBINARS

In addition to the above organizations, platforms like Coursera, edX, and LinkedIn Learning often offer courses on child protection, child psychology, and related topics. Some may be free or offer financial aid. Additionally, seeking out local training programs and workshops can supplement online resources by providing practical skills and networking opportunities within the local context.

1. Collaborative Response

ISPCAN Resources

- [Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Child Protection](#)
- [The Value of Multidisciplinary Approaches to Child Abuse Prevention: Best Practices and Sustainable Applications from Greece](#)
- [The Global Issue of Child Abuse and its Impact on the Work of CACs](#)
- [Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Child Protection](#)
- [Comparative Analysis of Trauma-informed Child Protection Systems of Hungary and the USA](#)
- [Applying Safe Behaviours: Preventing and Responding to Peer Violence Amongst Children and Young People](#)
- [Journal Special Issue on Indigenous Youth Wellbeing- Risk & Resilience](#)
- [Approaches to Child Abuse Prevention: Best Practices and Sustainable Applications from Greece](#)
- [Breaking Barriers with Song: The Global Impact of MBIMB's Music Programme](#)

ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLES & RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

Accessing academic journals and research papers through platforms like Google Scholar or institutional libraries can provide in-depth knowledge on child sexual abuse interventions and best practices.

1. Collaborative Response
2. Improving Disclosure
 - <https://cdn.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/What-Helps-Children-Tell-Meta-analysis-Brennan-2020.pdf>

COUNTRY & REGION-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Government websites, particularly those of ministries responsible for child welfare or law enforcement, may offer guidelines, protocols, and reports related to responding to child sexual abuse cases.

1. Collaborative Response
2. Law Enforcement
3. Legal
4. Medical
5. Mental Health

RESOURCES BY SECTOR AND KEY ELEMENTS OF RESPONSE:

MEDICAL:

1. World Health Organization Medical Guidelines:
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240048737> or
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241550147>
2. Infographic on what is important in the early hours after sexual abuse:
3. <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/every-hour-matters-infographic>
4. Responding to Children and Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused, World Health Org., 2017: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241550147>
5. International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children Health Portal: resources for medical and mental health professionals regarding CSA, including training materials and support for creating a clinical protocol for CSA.
<https://www.icmec.org/healthportal-resources/>
6. ISPCAN Resource (International) - [Ethics in Child Protection: A Nurses' Perspective](#)

SOCIAL CARE AND CASE MANAGEMENT:

1. ISPCAN Resource (International)

- [Strengths and Stressors Assessment Tool -An ecological approach to assessing and working with at-risk families](#)
- [Family for Every Child Kindship Care Guidelines – Lessons Learnt from Around the World](#)

MENTAL HEALTH CARE / TRAUMA INFORMED:

2. (Source) Collaborative Framework Expert Steering Committee:

Some children are highly resilient, but others may suffer significant mental health challenges in the aftermath of child sexual abuse.

- Evidence-based treatments have been documented to alleviate posttraumatic stress, depression and other child sexual abuse-related difficulties.
- Children can benefit greatly from meeting with a counselor who is knowledgeable and comfortable discussing child sexual abuse and its impact openly.
- Counseling in the aftermath of child sexual abuse whenever possible optimally:
 - a) involves nonoffending caregiver participation to provide support for the child, with additional support directly for the nonoffending caregiver
 - b) parenting guidance to enhance children’s healing
 - c) psychoeducation for both the caregiver and child about child sexual abuse and trauma reactions coping skill building for both the caregiver and the child
 - d) assistance for the child in gradual processing abuse-related memories
 - e) conjoint sessions with children and caregivers to communicate openly and (5) personal safety skill building
 - f) nonoffending caregiver involvement is a strong predictor of better child outcomes and nonoffending caregivers often need the mental health and other practical support in order for the child to have their basic needs met.

3. ISPCAN Resource (International)

- [Child Sexual Abuse - A Case Study on Trauma Focused Screening and Intervention](#)
- [Trauma Informed Mental Health Care](#)
- [Prevention in Children at Risk & Increasing Resilience in Traumatized Children](#)
- [Safe Places - Thriving Children](#)
- [Embedding Trauma-Informed Practices into Alternative Care Settings](#)

LEGAL:

1. Collaborative Framework Expert Steering Committee Recommendations:

A. **Forensic Interviews** - When striving for the best forensic interview responses, the following are key points:

- Forensic interviewing of the victim of child sexual abuse is one of the most if not the most significant part of any investigation.
- Forensic interviewers must be trained to a very high standard and this standard must be maintained.
- The number of interviews should be kept to a minimum.
- International best practice is that the child should have only one interview and for a skilled forensic interviewer this is all that is usually required.
- Even for a child being interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer, it can still be stressful for the child telling a person about the abuse and trauma they have suffered.
- Repeated interviews by untrained interviewers will retraumatize the child and often result in the child becoming confused because of repeated questioning.
- <https://calio.org/resources/best-practices-guidelines/best-practices-interviewing/>
- <https://www.nationalcac.org/forensic-interview-services/>
- https://practicenotes.org/vol8_no1/what_is.htm

B. **Training of Judges** - When striving for the best training of judges, the following are key points:

- Any case that the allegation is one of sexual abuse the trial must be conducted in a manner that does not allow the victim to be re-traumatized but at the same time maintaining the principles of natural justice.
- Cases involving children who are the victims or have witnessed child sexual abuse should only be heard by a judge who is trained to deal with these matters in a child sensitive way.
- Many jurisdictions have specific laws setting how the protections for children giving evidence when they have been the victim of sexual abuse.
- If judges conducting these trials are not trained, there is a significant risk of them making a mistake/s and on appeal a new trial is ordered or even worse, the finding of guilt may be reversed.

- Trained judges will have a child focus thus making taking the best interests of the child into consideration when giving direction and/or decisions on matters relating to the conduct of any court proceedings.
- https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Training_Programme_on_the_Treatment_of_Child_Victims_and_Child_Witnesses_of_Crime_-_Prosecutors_and_Judges.pdf

C. General Legal Resources

- European Parliament Resolution on Children’s Rights, [TAMEF \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu/press-communication/infobox/infobox.cfm?id=11433)
- EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0607
- EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, [The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu/press-communication/infobox/infobox.cfm?id=11433)
- Joint Strategy to End Violence against Children, [endvac_strategy_2023-2030 \(unodc.org\)](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/End_Violence_against_Children_strategy_2023-2030.pdf)

D. Court Rooms

Court rooms are not a “friendly space” for any person who is not familiar with them. For a child having to give evidence in a court room is intimidating and for some it can be traumatizing.

- The best way to make the giving of evidence child friendly, consider an approach to having a child friendly space that is an extension of the court room. This “space” may not have to be in the court building and at another location. The child could give their evidence by way of CCTV e.g. Zoom.
- Prosecutors should always advocate for the court to allow the child to give their evidence in the most child friendly way.
- If laws do not allow for children to give their evidence remotely, efforts should be made for laws to be introduced that allow for this.

E. Planning And Preparing A Child For A Court Appearance

To make the court room experience “child friendly,” planning is a must.

- How is the child going to get to and from the court?
- Who will be the child’s support person?
- When they arrive at court what entrance will they use? *Best to use a non-public entrance away from the public*

- Where will the child wait (*safe space area*) until they give their evidence? *It should be in an area away from the public and if possible, a child friendly room.*
- Ensure the child is told what to expect on the day so they will not be surprised.
- Depending on the circumstance of the case, if possible, take the child to the court days before the case is heard so they are not overwhelmed on the day they are required to attend court.
- Where will the child wait during adjournments?
- Once the child has completed giving their evidence, what will occur? *e.g. Taken to their safe space area to talk over what has occurred or take out of the court building to another location.*

Court Room best practice:

- Child friendly language is used.
- Children can give evidence in the court building but are able to do it from another part of the court by using CCTV.
- If the child is required to give their evidence in the court room, screens should be used so the child only sees the minimum number of persons.
- Once the child has given their evidence, if the defense wishes to cross examine the child, the child should be removed, and legal arguments take place when the child is absent. The judge will determine what questions will be asked and the judge may decide that they will ask the child the questions.
- The judge should control the types of questions that can be asked.
- Once the child has given their evidence, they are taken to their safe space room to determine what is the best course of action that will be best for the child (*e.g. give the child time to have a break before leaving or you may decide to leave as soon as they have finished giving evidence*).

POLICE:

<https://leb.fbi.gov/articles/featured-articles/co-response-models-in-policing>
[SPICollaborationPrinciples.pdf \(henryleeinstitute.com\)](#)

HELPLINES:

[Youth Mental Health - How Child Helplines Support Children and Young People](#)
[Voices of Children & Young People Around the World - Global Child Helpline Data from 2021](#)

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER / ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:
RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY
OMBUDSMAN
PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION

Raising Awareness, Improving Disclosure

- Signs for Help Lines
- How and where to disclose
- School programs on healthy relationships, safe touches and what is not ok (My Body is My Body), consent, respect for self and others.

Awareness/Prevention

- Parenting workshops
- Teach children safe touches and self-empowerment skills in school (MBIMB)
- Mandatory reporting
- Laws and Policies
- Cultural Norms & Values
 - Early detection
 - Post information in public places, Secure airtime on radio, TV or social media platforms to spread facts about CSA

PREVENTION

ISPCAN Resource (International)

Webinar: [Protecting Children from Maltreatment Across all Ages in Challenging Times](#)

Gold standard resources can be built in any community to ensure that families have access to what is needed to provide safe family situations for children.

Webinar: [Empowering Children for Personal Safety](#)

Informative panel discussion introducing resources from ISPCAN Country Partner ARPAN for practitioners, educators, caregivers and children on preventing Child Sexual Abuse

[ISPCAN/NAPCAN - Young People as the Key to Preventing Violence](#)

Webinar: [Safeguarding Online - Addressing Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Risks](#)

Gain knowledge and practical strategies to safeguard children from the risks associated with artificial intelligence (AI) in the online world.

INTERVENTION

ISPCAN Resource (International)

Webinar: [Understanding and Responding to Children who Run Away from Home and Institutions – RADAR Program](#)

Webinar: [Become an "Agent of Change" to Combat the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children](#)

Webinar: [Family for Every Child Kinship Care Guideline - Lessons Learnt from Around the World](#)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

ISPCAN Resource (International)

[Journal Special Issue - Global Insights on the Sexual Exploitation of Boys](#)

[ISPCAN Journal Special Issue on The Rise of Economic Inequality & Its Consequences for Child Protection](#)

SUSTAINING THE TEAM

ISPCAN Resource (International)

[Special Issue Journal: Promoting a Healthy & Resilient Child Abuse & Neglect Workforce](#)

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

Mission Kids <https://missionkidscac.org/>

[Safe Futures Hub: Solutions to End Childhood... | Together for Girls](#)

TERMINOLOGY

Luxembourg Guidelines <https://ecpat.org/luxembourg-guidelines/>

The Terminology Guidelines is an initiative by 18 international partners to harmonize terms and definitions related to child protection.

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

[**Convention on the Rights of the Child**](#)

1. [Non-Discrimination \(Article 2\)](#)
2. [Best Interests of the Child \(Article 3:1\)](#)

3. [The Right to Survival and Development \(Article 6:2\)](#)
4. [The Views of the Child \(Article 12:1\)](#)
5. [Respect for culture, religion, \(Article 30\)](#)
6. [Respect the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents/caregivers \(Article 5\)](#)
7. [Recognition of, and respect for special needs of children with disabilities \(Article 23\)](#)
8. [Protection from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation and from human trafficking \(Articles 34, 35\)](#)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the United Nations:

Article 16: No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation

Article 18: “.....States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children...”

Article 19

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.
2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

Article 39: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.