

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY



14th ANNUAL REPORT **against on line child abuse** **and sexual exploitation**



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AGAINST SILENCE

Sexual abuse against children has always existed.

Grassroot values, culture and sensibility concerning childhood have changed; laws have changed. What has never changed is the silence. The silence of the young victims, imprisoned by blackmail, shame and deception, now as in the past. The silence of adults who can see but can't believe that they see.

It's too difficult for an abused child to shout; it's too difficult for an abused child to accuse their tormentor, especially when it is someone they love. It's too difficult for others to hear their fear, betrayal, horror.

But that was not enough. We hit rock bottom when we not only abused children, but actually traded them on the market of shame; when new technology allowed sexual abuse to be "documented" through photos and videos and used to make profits.

Now that proof of the worst crime that Man can commit is there for everyone to see on the internet, there is still silence.

Silence regarding the 49,393 sites demonstrating the huge proportions that online paedophilia reached in 2009.

The silence to which abused children - used to produce the scandalous pictures - are forced, their pictures fixed and amplified to infinity, perpetuating their pain and humiliation: knowing that anyone can witness their abuse and find it exciting renews the offence and makes it even harder for the young victims to ask for help.

The consciences of those that don't act against this modern massacre of innocent children out of ignorance, fear or personal gain and would rather protect their own children from snares on the Internet without worrying about those enslaved by a criminal market of unthinkable proportions and unimaginable ferocity continue this terrifying silence.

In this deafening silence, Telefono Arcobaleno aims to give a voice to this mute and denied childhood; it aims to put into words that which nobody wants to see but that must be told to ensure that this silence is transformed into millions of cries of rage, indignation and pain.

And to ensure that someone knows how to listen.

“We will have to repent not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people”

Martin Luther King

ON LINE CHILD ABUSE IN 2009

Key information

49.393 reports in 35 countries in 2009

7.000 reports more than the previous year

Each day **135** new paedophile sites appear

Each week **20** new paedophile groups appear on social networks

Over **100.000** visitor to each paedophile site on average per day

60% of internet paedophiles are European

Over **3.500** sites are funded through publicity



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN on the INTERNET

When sexual abuse of children is not solely for the purpose of sexual gratification of an individual but is used for economic gain, this is called sexual exploitation. This includes putting children on the market for prostitution, organizing holidays in countries in which sexual contact with children is common and often tolerated by the local authorities. When sexual abuse to children is documented through photos and videos, this is called paedopornography.

Using pornography to indicate pictures of sexual abuse on children is not actually the right term, as it could diminish the serious nature of this act and prevent full understanding of the true nature of this terrible crime.

Photos and videos are always evident proof of sexual abuse and the children that appear in such pictures are forced to terribly degrading and humiliating coercion and manipulation and are often tortured. In many cases, children are dazed and drugged in various ways and at times are reduced to slavery.

The photos and films produced through exploiting children are widely diffused on the Internet, where they are sold or exchanged by people who share a sexual interest in children.

Paedopornographic material is used both to stimulate sexual excitement and to feed the fantasies of paedophiles both as a means of exchanging materials to establish a trusting relationship with other paedophiles or, increasingly more, to gain profits by selling pictures to others.

Pictures may be used to blackmail the victims of abuse and guarantee their silence or to show other children to convince them to accept sexual proposals from adults.

Material may be amateur or, as occurs with increasing frequency, professional material that is the result of organized criminals operating in countries in which poverty and inequality make children more vulnerable and promote tolerance of abuse and impunity with respect to the perpetrators.

Pictures of sexual abuse on children circulate on the Internet, exploiting all the distribution channels available online as part of activities with indisputable commercial roots, as they are a source of earning for criminal organizations.

The countries that host paedophilia on the Internet

Most of the paedophile sites reported by Telefono Arcobaleno in 2009 are European.

The diverse geographical distribution of these sites shows that paedobusinesses look for "convenient" locations for their activities, in other words areas with more permissive legislation, and with the Internet Service Providers considered more tolerant from time to time.

COUNTRIES	TOT.
GERMANY	19.488
NETHERLANDS	10.277
UNITED STATES	8.411
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	7.118
CYPRUS	1.688
CANADA	1.013
HUNGARY	450
SWITZERLAND	244
SPAIN	119
THAILAND	107
SWEDEN	104
UNITED KINGDOM	69
JAPAN	56
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	54
FRANCE	35
PORTUGAL	34
UKRAINE	29
ITALY	28
CZECH REPUBLIC	16
VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH	11
CHINA	7
ESTONIA	6
AUSTRALIA	5
POLAND	5
LUXEMBOURG	4
LATVIA	3
DENMARK	2
INDIA	2
MALAYSIA	2
BELIZE	1
ECUADOR	1
GEORGIA	1
NEW ZEALAND	1
TURKEY	1
TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA	1
TOT.	49.393



USERS

Paedobusiness complies with standard market practices: it increases the offer according to demand, therefore the presence of “new goods” on the Internet increases according to demand from users.

The atrocious aspect is that the “goods” is an increasingly higher number of children and that each new production involves a new abuse.

Users of paedopornographic pictures also contribute towards expanding the children’s market with the mechanism whereby higher demand means more offers and thereby become jointly responsible for abuse.

The nationality of Internet paedophiles

The number of visitors to paedophile sites recorded by Telefono Arcobaleno in 2009 is increasingly preoccupying; the relative figures have so many zeros that they become truly frightening.

Internet paedophiles are mainly American, German, British, Russian, Italian and French – a true army of online hunters on the lookout for photos, videos and contacts every day.

TOP 20 of 176 2009

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	22,3%
GERMANY	17,6%
UNITED KINGDOM	6,5%
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	6,1%
ITALY	5,0%
FRANCE	4,8%
CANADA	3,0%
SPAIN	2,3%
NETHERLANDS	2,2%
SWEDEN	1,8%
SWITZERLAND	1,7%
AUSTRALIA	1,7%
BRASIL	1,6%
CZECH REPUBLIC	1,6%
POLAND	1,5%
JAPAN	1,5%
BELGIUM	1,4%
UKRAINE	1,0%
MEXICO	1,0%
HUNGARY	1,0%
OTHERS	14,6%
TOT.	100,0%



THE ROLE OF THE INTERNET

If on the one hand the net has favoured sexual exploitation of children by expanding its scope, on the other it has helped demonstrate the real face of the most hateful crime in history, a crime soaked in appalling and inhuman criminal fury.

The Internet has finally opened a crack in the wall of silence about child abuse, which has been covered up and denied for so many years and only revealed by the weak and sporadic account of a few victims.

Now that child abuse can be seen by everyone, new scenarios to counter this terrible crime are coming to light, scenarios in which the Internet can, with the right tools and skills, become a precious tool for all those called to investigate, make laws, judge and fight sexual exploitation of children for various reasons.

In order to ensure that the actions taken to fight this phenomenon are truly effective, we must take into account the transnational nature of the Internet confuses any local juridical order and disrupts traditional investigation systems; [international cooperation projects among the various subjects involved are required as any “local” solutions would be inadequate for resolving what is becoming a “global” problem.](#)



VIOLATED CHILDHOOD

Child abuse has devastating effects on the psychological and physical development of its victims: abuse changes children's lives, changes their internal world, alters their relationships with adults and peers alike.

Abused children are involved in sexual behaviour that is unfitting for their level of development and therefore not completely understandable. These experiences occur as part of a relationship that is asymmetrical and, in many cases, extremely close, thereby placing the child in question in a position of psychological subservience with respect to the adult. This is why children accept any proposals they receive - including those of a sexual nature - even though they don't fully understand them, and tend to comply with the requests of the adult even when not violently forced to do so.

This is one of the reasons why it is extremely rare for children to reveal abuse; this is where silence comes into play.

The first accomplices to this silence are confusion and ambivalence: children cannot tell anyone what is happening to them because they don't understand it and don't know the words to use. In order not to feel the unacceptable suffering of abuse, they alter the truth and remove the pain.

Guilt and shame do the rest: children don't generally talk about their abuse as they think they provoked it or deserved it, or simply because they cannot say no; they feel guilty and ashamed for the part of themselves that may have been fascinated by a relationship with an adult.

Silence feeds on fear: fear of not being believed, of being judged, of being punished, of losing their family's love, fear that something irreparable will happen. And it is on this fear that a paedophile's deception is based, using threats or seduction, using the weakness of their young victim to guarantee their silence.

Adults are also often silent when forced to look at something so disturbing as child abuse; they have a need not to see, not to know, not to think that renews the solitude and impotence of children with respect to their pain.

All these silences hide and perpetuate child abuse.

Abused and exploited children shown in paedopornographic pictures reduced even further to silence as they are slaves on a market that deprives them of their freedom certainly cannot ask for help. Their only chance is that someone notices them.

The serious consequences of abuse are further worsened and prolonged by the awareness that their abuse has been filmed.

Circulation of pictures of abuse for a potentially indefinite amount of time via the Internet makes the memory of children's abuse carry on for as long as these pictures exist.

Cameras and film cameras become another tool that abusers can use to psychologically coerce and manipulate their young victims.

The presence of such items during abuse inevitably condition the behaviour of a child, weakening their ability to say no to the requests from adults and increases their sense of complicity and shame: children are, in fact, often forced to smile to make people believe that they spontaneously accepted participation and the existence of such pictures will show this cheating truth, potentially for eternity.

Above all abused and exploited children need to be sheltered from abuse before being accompanied along a route of therapeutic assistance to help them overcome the trauma of being abused and being filmed as they were victims to such.

The effectiveness of any action is therefore measured by the number of victims that can be identified, removed from the possibility of further abuse and helped to commence a gradual recovery.

**UNTIL NOW, FEWER THAN 1% OF CHILDREN
HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND FREED**



THE RESPONSE FROM TELEFONO ARCOBALENO

Telefono Arcobaleno is a free and independent international Organization established in 1996 to promote and safeguard the inviolable rights of every child throughout the world.

This Organization is committed to preventing and fighting any kind of child abuse and exploitation, giving absolute priority to re-adapting every single victim from physical, psychological and social viewpoints.

Telefono Arcobaleno gives children a voice with respect to Governments, Authorities, public opinion and the international community to ensure that the conditions generating abuse and the deep-rooted causes that continue to cultivate paedophile crime are countered and removed. This Organization aims to promote a new universal conscience that rejects any kind of negligence, exploitation, abuse and appalling treatment.

The Organization's constant commitment is a painstaking reply to the unacceptable conditions in which too many children live, victims to abuse and exploitation throughout the world and whose right to be children is violently and irredeemably denied.

The daily work and incessant commitment of Organization staff are the result of heartfelt sharing and strict respect of its *mission* and fundamental principles; the tangible intentions, actions and results achieved over years of intense work are the drive behind a conviction that, in what is defined a civil society, protecting the most vulnerable elements is not only possible, but a duty.

Independence from any political and religious association, as well as absolute priority for the corporate *mission*, ensure that each member of staff is free to say, ask and do anything needed to achieve the Organization's goals.

The Organization has become particularly skilled in new technologies and opposing sexual exploitation via the Internet.

In 1996, when the digital era was only just beginning, Telefono Arcobaleno had already commenced ongoing monitoring of online paedophilia, creating the first-ever worldwide online paedophilia databank.

In 1996, Organization staff were pioneers, a voice in the wilderness; there were no applicable laws, no specific police corps, no institutional interlocutors willing to deal with what Telefono Arcobaleno had already identified as a social emergency.

Telefono Arcobaleno databanks have been updated daily since 1996 and are the most complete databank for paedophile sites in the world.

Monitoring involves watching the Internet 365 days a year in order to identify, trace and immediately report illegal sites with paedopornographic content to the Internet officers and Authorities involved, thereby ensuring immediate shut-down.

A really small group of expert analysts with pre-set and transparent operational protocols uninterruptedly explore the Internet using a specific standard system to analyse, assess and classify the activities they find.

Monitoring mainly involves areas on the Internet with free access and visible to all and does not include any kinds of access to reserved areas.

Monitoring complies with the Convention on the Rights of Children and civic duty to report crimes to the relative Authorities

A FREE MARKET

Sexual exploitation of children on the Internet is increasingly becoming a crime that is **illegal only on paper**, but actually **freely accessible** and often tolerated by everyone.



A LEGITIMATE MARKET

The paedobusiness risks being legitimized like one of the many markets in the new economy; in fact, **publicity for leading international companies recently appeared in the background of pictures showing child abuse**.

AN UNOPPOSED MARKET

Incessant growth in paedophilia on the Internet clearly demonstrates that there is still no guarantee for the safety of too many children and real protection of their rights throughout the world and shows the unacceptable gap there currently is between the atrocity of paedobusiness and the **embarrassing lack of solutions**.

Graphic design AREA97

Malta, January 2010



WHAT HURTS A CHILD HURTS US ALL.



**INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY
AGAINST ON LINE CHILD ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

WWW.TELEFONOARCOBALENO.ORG