06 Internet Exploitation

The Issue

The Internet has transformed the way perpetrators lure and recruit victims. Globalization has eroded national and trade boundaries, and the Internet provides a free, easy venue for pimps, johns, and sex traffickers. Raising awareness about making the Internet safe is an important priority.

Demand Change

Everyday Actions

1. Pimps and traffickers use online advertising to sell women and children. Support work to help end sexual exploitation perpetrated through sites like www.backpage.com. Write to the company expressing your concern about its lack of monitoring of its adult services ads.

2. Teach children to follow NetSmart rules, www.netsmartz.org/Parents, including not giving out their phone number, address, school, name, or picture on the Internet.

3. Help teach youth to identify inappropriate internet interactions. Encourage open dialogue with children so they feel comfortable reporting any improper or uncomfortable online activity.

4. If you notice exploitation of children online, call 1-800-843-5678 to report child pornography or visit www.missingkids.com to make a report.

5. If you have children, consult websites such as www.ProtectKids.com and books such as "Kids Online: Protecting your Children in Cyberspace".

6. Utilize www.WiredSafety.org, an online safety resource that addresses the various ways people are exploited on the Internet.

Raise Awareness

7. Host a screening of the film: *Traffic Control: The People's War on Internet Porn*.

Advocate for Change

8. Find out what your Internet service provider is doing about the issue of online exploitation, or petition them to do something about it.

9. If your credit card company or internet provider is not part of the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography, petition them to join or switch to a provider that is a member. The coalition of credit card issuers and Internet service companies seeks to eliminate commercial child pornography by taking action on the payment systems used to fund these illegal operations. Learn more at www.missingkids.com.

Keep Learning

10. Find more information by viewing the resources under the Internet Exploitation section in the index.