

HELP US PLEASE

What YOU Can Do To Eradicate Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography

by

Mark D. Robison and Debra A. Robison

## Feedback

The authors welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions regarding *HELP US PLEASE: What YOU Can Do to Eradicate Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography* but regret that they may be unable to respond to each correspondence individually. Email us at

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## Other Books by Mark Robison

- Man to Man: Poems for Men, available at Amazon.com

### DRAFT

This is the current working draft of this book. When completed later this year, it will be available from Amazon.com and other book sellers.

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*"For evil to flourish, we need only close our eyes."*

## About The Authors and This Book

### Mark Douglas Robison

Molested once as a child, Mark Robison learned of his wife's childhood sexual abuse shortly after the birth of their daughter. Decades later, he learned of the childhood rapes of his close cousin, Linda. After stumbling upon unimaginably horrific images of child sexual abuse on the Internet, he reached his action point, the point at which one knows that he or she must act. Armed with a degree from MIT and a career of solving problems, he decided to attack sexual abuse head on.

Mark researched the laws and concluded that it was not against the law to be informed. He proceeded to gather as much information about sexual abuse as he could. Sadly and amazingly, an abundance of evidence of sexual abuse exists in the electronic public library known as the Internet - all public domain and all freely available. Over the course of many sleepless nights haunted by the nightmare inducing images, the ideas in this book slowly came to life.

### Debra Antoinette Robison

Debra, known to her family as Debbie, is a graduate of Farleigh Dickinson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and French. She has also completed several graduate courses in education and counseling and worked as an intake social worker for the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services. As an intake worker, Debbie was a "first responder" and saw firsthand numerous cases of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and various forms of child abuse. Debbie trained day care workers to recognize and report all types of abuse, and has personally intervened in several cases of abuse.

In 2007 after training at the Neuhaus Educational Center in Bellaire, Texas, Debbie began tutoring children with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. She writes in her bio, "The experience of making a difference in the lives of children with dyslexia has been one of the most rewarding things in my life. For the last six years, I have watched children grow both academically and emotionally. I see every day how a child's self-esteem suffers with the struggles accompanying dyslexia. To every parent I say 'Educate yourself and be an advocate for your child'."

### Help Us Please

With unorthodox yet clear and undisputable logic, Mark and Debra argue that the first step to stopping sexual abuse is to shine a light on it - a simple concept from the Bible. Holocaust

survivor and Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal said, "For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing.", but Mr. Wiesenthal was only partially correct. Without knowledge of the evil, the need for action does not even arise and as a result, evil such as the sexual abuse of children, can - and does - flourish. The authors' version of this is "For evil to flourish, we need only close our eyes" hints at the current dilemma we find ourselves in today. Few people truly understand the scope and magnitude of the world's sexual abuse problem. Without that understanding and without an understanding of its impact, action will not come.

Instead of letting the abuse happen and then prosecuting the abusers only after the children have turned into adults and reported the abuse, as is so often the case, let us prevent abuse from happening in the first place. Through knowledge, communication, and action sexual abuse can be eradicated and relegated to a museum of past human atrocities, where it belongs. Together we can put an end to sexual abuse forever - we really can.

## Prolog

Few topics are as unpleasant as is the subject of this book, and even fewer are as important. Sexuality is a central component of the human experience but it causes so much pain for so many people. One has to wonder why this is and if it has to be this way. Our answer is no, it does not have to be this way.

Sexual abuse affects not just the abused and the abuser, but all of us. Eradicate sexual abuse and we eradicate violence. By stopping violence against women and children, we set the stage for achieving a more peaceful world free from all forms of violence. Sexual abuse and violence are intrinsically linked and co-dependent. One cannot survive without the other and the link between them is well established<sup>1,2,3</sup>. Sexual fetishes listed on some websites include “TORTURE”. If a man does not respect women and children enough to not sexually abuse them, how could he ever be expected to treat anyone non-violently? Likewise, after a man is taught and encouraged to kill for the battlefield, who is surprised when he comes home and abuses those who love him? We link sexual abuse and violence without even knowing it. By focusing on sexual abuse, the more specific of the two, eradication is possible and with the end of sexual abuse, violence will slowly fade away.

If you are a victim of sexual abuse, know someone who is, or simply want to make the world a better place, read and share this book. And then act. Together we can make a difference.

### *Can we really eradicate sexual abuse?*

Well, think about this. Debbie and I are certain that none of our children will be sexual abusers. If all parents educated their sons and daughters about the harm caused by sexual abuse and instilled in their children the importance of and the benefits of not abusing others sexually, and if all parents could say with equal confidence, “My children will not be sexually abusers”, then within a generation, sexual abuse *would* be eradicated. Yes, it really is that simple.

<sup>1</sup> Sexual Abuse and Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa by Lola Delano, Advocates for Youth website, February 1998. <http://advocatesforyouth.org/publications/457>

<sup>2</sup> Examining the Link between Child Abuse and Youth Violence: An Analysis of Mediating Mechanisms by Todd I. Herrenkohl, Bu Huang, Emiko A. Tajima, and Stephen D. Whitney, Journal of Interpersonal Violence. <http://jiv.sagepub.com/content/18/10/1189.short>

<sup>3</sup> Review of Research On Child Maltreatment and Violence in Youth, Trauma Violence Abuse, January 1, 2008 9: 56-67, <http://tva.sagepub.com/content/9/1/56.full.pdf+html>

*“If we want real peace in the world,  
we must begin with the children.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi



## **PART 1. Some Context**

As with many problems and situations, no one can truly understand sexual abuse and child pornography without experiencing them; yet, understand them we must if we are to eradicate them. To that end, Part 1 strives to lay the foundation of that understanding and to put some context around sexual abuse and the thoughts expressed in this book.

Chapters 1 and 2 convey information about the authors, their formative years, and the experiences that ultimately led to this book and the conclusions in it.

Chapters 3 and 4 are two stories of millions. Each of us needs to hear, to comprehend, and to learn from such accounts. For this book, we start with Mark and his cousin, Linda.

An overview of online pornography, Chapter 5, concludes Part 1, providing a peephole into the world that many men know all too well. Here we serve up a broad-brush view of the state of the world regarding abuse-focused pornography.

DRAFT

## Chapter 1. Mark

“For God so loved the world that he did...” and all of us on stage jumped up. It was an easy question and all of us knew it, but of the nine quizzers, I was the first off my seat, a specialized contraption that had a built in trigger wired to a light at the judge’s panel. “Mark Robison” the judge said, and I walked to the microphone. “For God so loved the world that he did what?”

“That is the correct question”, the judge responded.

One step closer to becoming the First Place Youth For Christ Quiz Champion for the Eastern United States, my heart beat with excitement. Steadying my voice, I spoke softly into the microphone: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. John 3:16”.

“You are correct.” Applause filled the packed beachside auditorium at Ocean City, New Jersey, as I returned to my seat for the next question.

Question after question flew by. Some I got. Sometimes other quizzers were a bit quicker, but at the end, the team from Washington County, Pennsylvania, with me as the team captain, had won first place and I had earned the top quizzer spot. I had never been in front of such a large crowd. I had never had such a grandiose goal that I had purposefully set out to achieve and then had the good-fortune of actually achieving it. I had no idea then of how much my life was being shaped by the lessons I was learning through the Youth For Christ quizzing experience and through the victory achieved that day.

At the awards ceremony that June evening in 1969, I received a small gold medal, or at least it looked gold to my 17 year old eyes. To this day, I treasure that small medal. It reminds me of all the hard work I did and of all the close friends I made. It reminds me of what each of us can do with purpose, effort, and commitment.

That small gold medal, and my later acceptance to and graduation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gave me the wild and crazy idea that I could set lofty goals and actually achieve them. Some might call it hubris, especially when extended to nearly intractable problems like sexual abuse. But it is not hubris. It’s just a fundamental belief in humanity and in the power of trying. That is who I am. Now the proud father of three, I believe that we can stop sexual abuse if only we set our minds to it, if only we try.

## The Roots of Idealism

One of my earliest memories is of Santa Claus. Not so much about the toys that I wanted, but wondering how he could possibly do what the world claimed that he did. Sure, there was the logistical issue of delivering all those presents in one night, but he did have helpers so that wasn’t the main problem that I saw. What concerned me was how Santa paid for it all. I knew

that toys were not cheap and that “money does not grow on trees”, as I had heard so often. So, as Christmas neared I increased my efforts at finding discarded soda pop bottles and turning them in for the 2-cent deposit. I also had a small allowance starting at an early age, so that too financed my efforts. The night before Christmas, I gathered my savings and mostly filled a small cup that I left on our mantle with a note for Santa. I told him that I didn’t know how he could possibly pay for all of the toys that he gave to everyone, so I wanted to help and I thanked him for his generosity. I perceived a need, and I did what I could to address it.

Cub Scouts, Webelos, the Boy Scouts, and of course our church all reinforced this “help others” mentality. All the while, my parents, like those of many children, told me that I could do anything I set my mind to. Through the years, I watched the news of astronauts going into space, circling the globe and eventually landing on the moon. I watched the inaugurations of John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, and my parents seemed to be right. The heroes and politicians all looked pretty much like me, so I supposed that I could indeed do whatever I chose.

The church I grew up in deserves special mention. It literally would not have existed without my parents – they made it happen. During my first 8 years, my family attended the First Baptist Church of Donora. The problem was that Donora was many miles away and my parents believed there was a need for a Baptist church in our own community. So, with the help of Uncle Don, Aunt Marjorie, and a few close friends, my parents, created their Southern Baptist Church of Charleroi out of nothing. They contacted the Southern Baptist convention and with their help and that of a large, established church in Pittsburgh, they rented a small building and hired a minister. I was young but I watched carefully as my parents built their own church from nothing. Over the years, I watched this church grow, moving time to time to accommodate its changing needs and growing congregation. When I was 12, I was baptized at this church. It was my parent’s church and it became my church. I was, and remain, so very proud of my parents. They saw a need and they filled it. They created an agent of good which has lasted over half a century and which will outlast them. They acted on their beliefs and in the process set the bar to which I now aspire.

Not often, but every now and then, our small Southern Baptist church had guest speakers, many of them very informative. Some were missionaries with awe-inspiring slide shows of their travels and their deeds. Their stories often filled my eyes with tears and for a while I contemplated following in their paths. On youth day I gave a sermon at our church – it was about Jesus’ story of the man in need on the road to Nazareth. Everyone genuinely seemed to like it and I thought about becoming a minister. At school, I got A’s without really trying much. Just lucky I suppose; things always just seemed so clear to me. My options seemed unlimited and anything was possible.

I ultimately followed my growing interest in technology. My parents didn’t have money to send me to college, but with the belief system that they instilled in me that just didn’t matter. I read in the fine print of my favorite class’s textbook, a physics book, that the authors were professors at some college called the “Massachusetts Institute of Technology”. Physics was my favorite class, so I decided to enroll at MIT after high school. I never visited the college and other than hearing

its name in the news now and then, I didn't know much about it. I did know, though, that it was hard to get into and expensive, so I studied for my SAT, applied for financial aid, and hoped for the best. When the acceptance letter came, I was ecstatic. Another goal set; another goal achieved. Life was good.

I worked the summer after high school graduation, and all the summers since, and I worked each semester to supplement the scholarships and loans I had received. I ate beans and pasta and saved enough money for the trip home each Christmas. My parents saved up to attend my graduation. The smiles on their faces were almost reward enough for the endless nights studying. I went on to the Duke University Business School but stopped short of graduation to start a software company. A few years later, I met Debbie, then working as a social worker for the state of New Jersey. It was from her that I first became aware of sexual abuse. Such evil had never been part of my world, at least not that I had known, or realized. Debbie chose her profession to make an impact. From the moment I met her, I admired her and her life choices.

My religious beliefs changed over the years, yet they anchor me and provide the foundation of my life. I am forever grateful and in debt to my parents for supplying this foundation.

## My Wonderful Wife Debbie

I love my wonderful wife Debbie without limits. She is incredibly beautiful, sexy, intelligent, and unimaginably caring. In her first job as a state social worker, she worked to protect abused children. As a dyslexia reading specialist, she now gives children who find reading difficult the skills and knowledge they need to read well and excel academically. Debbie has dedicated her life to helping others. Her strength, idealism, and resolve to be an agent of good are unsurpassed and provided the strength to write this book. Without her, this book would not be.

*“Two are better than one,  
because they have a good reward for  
their labor. For if they fall, one will lift  
up his companion. But woe to him who  
is alone when he falls, for he has no one  
to help him up.”*

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

## Chapter 2. Debbie

Shhhhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!

People want to keep child sexual abuse quiet. That's what everybody wants it seems with few exceptions. I would like to stop sexual abuse but, like many women, really do not want to be the one to tell my story for everyone to know my "secret". But my husband Mark has given me the courage to speak up, as I, like him, know that the only way to stop the perpetuation of sexual abuse is to shine a light on the problem. Sexual abuse is pervasive in the world we live in; at least it is in my world. Sexual abuse has damaged and traumatized too great a percentage of the people I know. There are those survivors of sexual abuse that are embarrassed and don't want anybody to know their terrible secret. Others want to talk about their sexual abuse because it's part of their healing. When they are able to share their secret, whether you are their mother, teacher or friend, believe them. You don't have to do anything, just listen. Your listening and quiet concern may be the thing that sets them free from the isolation they feel. For me, it was the final step I had to take to free myself from being a victim. Although I have not forgotten the relentless pursuit by my perpetrator, I have forgiven myself for "allowing" it to continue all those years. What I can't quite forgive myself for is that by not telling an adult it is possible that he continued his behavior by sexually abusing his own children.

When Mark and I had our daughter, memories came flooding back to me. Once those memories surfaced, they would not go back to the past. I remember we had been married a few years when I told my husband, Mark, for the first time that I had been abused. He was the only person that I had told. I was looking out the window at our children play when the memories came flooding back to me. Mark held me and comforted me. For thirty-three years he has been there for me through everything life has brought us. He is the one that suggested I go to counseling to deal with the overwhelming amount of feelings that I didn't know what to do with. Although my perpetrator is only a few years older than I am and I was not physically hurt, my life was never the same. Some things cannot be undone.

About twenty-five years ago, when we were living in New Jersey, I found a wonderful support group to attend. Although I don't remember the details of how I found out about the group, it is amazing to me that my next-door neighbor was also sexually abused by a family member so we went to the group together. What is equally eye opening is that once you start talking about sexual abuse you learn how many people have been abused. Currently, I have a close friend, a cousin, my husband's cousin, myself, my mother and my husband himself that have all been sexually abused, and these are just the people that I know of! This is why I believe the statistics that one out of four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before reaching adulthood. The reason we have written this book is to reduce those odds. Remember, there are many types of

sexual abuse including verbal abuse, fondling, incest, arranged marriages, genital mutilation, human trafficking and rape, including date rape, marital rape and rape as a weapon of war. By verbal sexual abuse I include things that many men find totally acceptable, for example a parent saying to their female child, “you have big breasts and boys will like that”, as was said to Mark’s cousin by her father when her body was just beginning to change.

The support group that I went to for help included adult survivors, teenage survivors, siblings of the survivors who were also at risk, mothers of the children that were abused, and perpetrators. We met and talked regularly because we all had issues to work out. If your town doesn’t have such a group, I suggest that you try to make it happen. It was great to have perpetrators there to ask questions like “why” and to vent our anger towards them. There were those in my group that were ready to face their abusers and ask the hard questions but I was not quite ready. After a few months in the support group, I was ready to ask questions and to allow myself to be angry. I confronted my abuser in a letter. I have just retrieved that letter from my personal files. This is now 25 years later, after rereading that letter, I feel physically sick. If you are a man and reading this, you do not need to understand, you just need to know that the harm is real.

I would like to share that letter with you. My hope is that the letter I wrote to my abuser when I was 34 and which still upsets me now, at 59, will give you some sense of how devastating sexual abuse can be for a child and how long that impact lasts. When I wrote this letter, I felt an explosion of anger that consumed my thoughts to such an extent that there wasn’t room for anything else in my head. All of my questions and buried feelings came out, some of which I did not consciously know existed. After I wrote the letter, I reread it and realized how angry I was. By putting my thoughts on paper, I felt a tremendous relief and sense of peace and control in my life. I never mailed the letter but I kept it. It is still painful after all these years to read. I’m sharing this with you now in this book so that you can see as a survivor how powerful words can be. They can set you free. They really helped me to face my past, express my anger and end the effect it was having on my life. When I left the support group, I no longer felt like, why me? I began to trust my instincts again.



### Letter To My Abuser

Society tells us this relationship is wrong and it has been because it has scarred me. You shouldn't be allowed to be on the prowl. Just because I wasn't physically hurt, you need to know that you selfishly destroyed my innocence. **CONTROL YOURSELF!!** Leave what should be an intimate act of love for a girl to have when she meets someone to love. I didn't have feelings of love for you. Why didn't you ask me that? Why didn't you stop at playing innocent? "doctor" games of experimentation. It was a challenge and you won. Was it all a game with the goal of "devirginizing" me. I hate you, you bastard. What are you doing to your own kids? Do you love them enough to be panicked like I am that something like this could happen to them. What perverted information were you trying to give me about my mother. I knew you were trying to hurt her. I could sense it. Why? What went on between you and her? I wasn't listening to what you were saying. If I had it correct you were trying to tell me to follow in my mother's footsteps. What was good enough for her was good enough for me. You make me sick to my

me sick to my stomach. I think in your own perverted way you loved me or lusted after me. I'm not sure.

At this point in my life I can say NO!!! I did not understand what was going on just that it was weird even though you made it seem normal. I was totally isolated around you because this was a secretive thing. It's different now. I will not be controlled again due to my naivety. I can't let you win. I can't and won't let your actions impact my life now. I should have killed you when you molested me.

I am strong willed by my nature yet I have allowed myself to be controlled by a man as if I had no mind of my own. I was so naïve I didn't know what was happening.

Lord please help me find the dimensions of myself that I have lost. Make me a better mother who loves, enjoys, and teaches her children not one who feels suffocated by them. Help me to not feel so guilty about the kind of mother I am. Does it make a difference that they are boys? Why am I "crazy" now that I have a girl.

THE END

DRAFT

*"I wasn't hurt."*

Chapter 3. The Strange Man in the Bathroom  
by *Mark Robison*

I don't recall my exact age, seven or eight, I think. I had no pubic hair and sex was just a synonym for gender and no more. I was too young to roam around Charleroi by myself, or at least my mom thought so. With two main streets and about 12,000 people, nothing terribly exciting ever happened in this small town in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania. Getting lost wasn't something that ever happened in Charleroi, not even to visitors on their way to Pittsburgh. Nevertheless, my mom always insisted that I not go off alone, so there we were – shopping together at the Five & Dime in the center of town, looking for toys and school supplies. It seems I always had to go to the bathroom when we shopped and that day was no exception. Mom waited just outside the bathroom as I entered the stall to do my business. The stalls didn't lock, I guess... I never even thought about that aspect until this moment... because after a few minutes the strangest thing happened. A man, about middle age if my memory serves me correctly, entered MY stall.

I vividly remember thinking that he just didn't know I was there and he would just leave and wait his turn. But he didn't leave. Instead, he came to me and said "I saw you playing with your thing", which wasn't true. He knelt down and took my penis and small scrotum in his hand. I've always been a curious person. "Curiosity killed the cat" was a phrase I often heard at home, but that's not what was on my mind. I didn't know what to think. For years, I had showered and bathed myself, so this was something totally new to me. I just sat silently on the toilet, my pants at my ankles, and I watched that man. I studied his face and his hands as he stared at and caressed my small, limp penis. It was without question, the oddest thing I had ever experienced.

After a few seconds though, things got even stranger. If I were writing this that day, I would have written, "You won't believe what happened next! You just won't believe it!" But of course, now I know better. Now I understand, sort of, and now I know there's even a word for it. He bent closer and put my small penis into his mouth. I continued to stare at his head and at what I could see of his face. My parents taught me many things in the first 8 years of my life, including the tradition of being careful of strangers. At the same time, though, my Dad picked up hitchhikers... people he knew but who were not as fortunate as us... people who just needed to go somewhere. They were strangers to me, but not to him. And both my parents taught a lot of strangers, children but strangers nonetheless, at Vacation Bible School each summer. I don't know if it was the small town atmosphere, the Southern Baptist "help your neighbor" mentality, or maybe just stupidity on my part, but for whatever reason, despite the admonitions about strangers, I had no fear, at least not that I recall. My heart was not racing, and I had no urge to run or escape. I just wanted to know what this strange man was doing and why he was so interested in my small penis. I silently watched him as he tried and tried, I know now, to make me erect. After a few minutes, he gave up and simply left.

I finished my business and left the restroom. I have a vague recollection of going to my mother and taking her hand. We would hold hands crossing the streets, so I'm sure my mom sensed nothing weird. I looked around for the strange man as we resumed our shopping but he was

nowhere in sight. We finished up at the store, went home, and went about our lives. I was never a very talkative child, especially when it came to talking about myself. I wasn't hurt. I had no idea what had happened or why. I don't recall dwelling on it or even thinking about it. Ever.

Fast forward to 1986. Amber, my daughter, had recently entered this world, stirring emotions that my wife, Debbie, had long buried. Unprompted, Debbie started talking about her own sexual abuse as a child. Debbie became depressed, began seeing a therapist, and joined a group of sexual abuse survivors. To this day, I cannot fully understand why she was so upset about something that happened two decades ago, but upset she was. I shared with her my strange incident in the Five & Dime. How it was no big deal. Yet, I had no trouble recalling that incident... those memories are as vivid as words on this page. We talked and talked. Eventually I began to have an inkling of the harm. It was in front of my face, yet it remained difficult to grasp.

The vividness of my own memories escaped me then, but amazes me now. The significance of that even escaped me until pointed out by my wife. Perhaps it was a much bigger deal than I ever realized.

I came to realize that understanding the harm done to myself and to my wife is not nearly as important as simply knowing that the harm is real. We don't need to understand something in order to acknowledge its importance, and to act on that knowledge. This is an important lesson. Each of us, even the sexual abusers and potential abusers among us, can take actions to eliminate sexual abuse by having an understanding that the harm is real. Fully understanding the details of that harm is not nearly as important. Complete understanding of sexual abuse is not essential to stopping sexual abuse. This is why it is so important for the sexually abused to share their experience. Others, males in particular, may not understand the harm, but denying its existence is impossible. With that acknowledgement, we take the first step towards eradicating sexual abuse.

DRAFT



- Linda, center left, beside her cousin Mark Robison at Mark's 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, September 29, 1956. Linda's sexual abuse by family members began the following year when she was 8 years old.



Chapter 4. Linda, the Sister I Never Had  
by *Mark Robison*

I had two brothers and my mother's sister had two daughters, Karen and Linda. We all spent so much time together, it was almost like one large family. Blond, thin, always happy, Linda was my sister and my playmate. Beginning in Junior High, that slowly changed. Still, as our lives took their separate paths, we remained close. When her father died, we all met at my parent's house after the funeral. Linda and I went for a walk along the isolated country road where I grew up and where we had so often played. She took my hand and began to cry as she told me of the sexual abuse she had endured during most of the years of our childhood. I wept as she spoke finally understanding her life long battle with overeating, her abusive husband, and the entire path of her life. Finally, the pieces all came together.

Years earlier my wife Debbie had already confided in me regarding her abuse, so I was smarter now. I didn't say, or even think, anything stupid like, "But that was 30 years ago." This time I understood the pain. This time I felt the pain.

Since then Linda has spoken to abusers and survivors of abuse doing her best to help men to understand the consequences of their actions. Today, despite severe health problems that are a direct result of her abuse, she still strives to be a force of good and to end this curse that so many women endure.

Starting with the onset of puberty, Linda began gaining weight. She didn't go to her school prom and as a young 14 year old, I remember her crying. She didn't marry until long after most of her friends and shortly after her wedding day, her husband Richard began physically abusing her. Richard was a large man and would jump on her back. A few years later, she divorced him. She has never remarried. She went to counseling, attended support groups, and eventually was able to move on with her life. She saved her money and had "lap-band" surgery to combat her weight, but after a while the band broke. Last year, Linda had back surgery for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Knee replacement surgery soon followed.

Linda's life was not the Cinderella story that one might expect, or at least hope for, from looking at the picture at the beginning of this chapter. Linda cannot travel and is for all practical purposes, confined to her home. Relatives moved her 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bedroom to the first floor for her, as she can no longer use steps. Her sister and neighbors help her with everyday chores. Linda is 63 years old, but the sexual abuse she endured as a child remains with her to this day, and the effects will be with her to the grave.

This short chapter does not do justice to Linda, her life, or what she has meant to me. Suffice it say that when I see an abused child, any abused child, I see Linda. And I weep.

*"It [Internet based pornography]  
continues to grow and to spread and  
has reached epidemic proportions."*

- Donna Rice Hughes, president  
of Enough Is Enough

## Chapter 5. Pornography

Pornography is a lot like the circus. The circus features lots of simultaneous acts so people can watch the one that interests them. Some acts are daring, some are funny, and some are scary. Sometimes there's a safety net; sometimes there's not. Sometimes there is a couple - a man and a woman, two men, or two women. Sometimes there is even a group of people, like all the clowns in the clown car; sometimes it is one lone person. Sometimes there are animals. There are performers and clowns. Some are serious, some are sad and some are happy. On occasion people die, be it the trapeze artist, the lion tamer, or the bound woman on a rotating target of a knife thrower or archer.

Consider the sword swallower or the flame swallower. The emcee announces what is going to happen. We see the sword or the flames. We tell ourselves "This is not good. This should not be. He should not do that. This can't possibly be good". And then we give them our money to watch.

Some people of course, do not watch. They walk away, sometimes in disgust, sometimes in fear, sometimes simply disturbed. Others inquire about the price. Some are willing to pay a quarter, others much more. Some in the audience struggle to understand how it is done, and for others, why it is done. Most are thrilled by the act, a few are sickened. Some in the audience came to learn a trade. They consider repeating the feat and perhaps joining the circus. They seek fame or fortune. Some see it as a dare, a challenge, a human size Mount Everest perhaps, an obstacle to overcome and defeat. Others see it as an opportunity, a chance to escape to something new. Still others simply see a job, a source of a modest income and a way to survive.

Like swallowing a sword or a burning torch, many forms of pornography are clearly not good and, initially at least, disgusts and turn the stomachs of most people, even many of those who pay to watch. Whether it is choking, slapping, beating, or raping a woman, or gently, intimately examining a naked child, the acts are clearly not good and disturbing to most - they are obviously either harmful or have the definite potential for harm. As in the circus, consent rules the day. In the case of the adult, if there is consent, we accept, sometimes reluctantly, the right of the flame swallower to risk disfigurement and for the woman to allow herself to be assaulted and abused. For the child, informed, thoughtful consent is unarguably not possible, so we shudder at the very existence of child pornography. Yet, many watch.

Such is the state of affairs in the early 21st century. In the United States and most other countries, adult pornography is legal and child pornography is illegal. The exact definitions vary and there are exceptions for both, but overall, to protect our children we make sexual exploitation of them illegal. Furthermore, to prevent future abuse, to avoid

inadvertently encouraging others to mimic such acts, and because the acts and the images are so blatantly offensive and so disturbing, possession of the evidence of such exploitation is also illegal nearly everywhere. While for adults, as long as they give consent, pretty much anything goes, short of death and actual dismemberment. This may seem like the necessary and correct balance between our rights and our safety, but this is wrong on both accounts.

Internet fueled pornography is rampant<sup>4</sup> and the consensus among professionals studying the matter is that it is growing. Indeed, the Internet pornography business is massive. The second largest porn site on the Internet, YouPorn accounts for almost 2% of all communications on the Internet<sup>5</sup> and there are thousands of pornography sites and several of them nearly as large as YouPorn. Worse than the amount of pornography is how online pornography is mutating. The anonymity, the profits, the technology, the lack of borders, the difficulty to police, and the sheer volume, all conspire to push the envelope further and further. If you haven't made it a point to look for pornography online, you have no idea. I guarantee it.

Before studying Internet pornography, I thought of pornography as Playboy Magazine and attractive women showing off their well-developed bodies. I thought of Penthouse Magazine with women in provocative, legs-spread-wide poses showing the most intimate parts of their body. I thought of videos available on-demand in luxurious rooms at the most posh hotels and available for purchase in dingy, dark, run down, back-street stores; of videos showing men and women having sex in every conceivable way; and of videos showing full penetration of various parts of the man into various parts of the women.

When I thought of pornography, what never entered my mind was the anguished face of an 8-year-old child being raped or a child naked and tied to a bench as an adult man ejaculated onto her face, her flat chest, or her hairless vagina. I never imagined the sight of an adult woman's bleeding, bruised breasts. I never thought of a bound and gagged woman's lacerated body. I never thought of a baby's body – an infant's body – being torn by the unconceivable acts of another. These are accurate, though abridged, descriptions of free and publicly available images and videos that our society, including our children, encounter on the Internet: images quickly and easily found, sometimes by accident, and nearly instantly displayed on any unfiltered Internet connected computer or smart phone anywhere on the planet.

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<sup>4</sup> “It [Internet based pornography] continues to grow and to spread and has reached epidemic proportions” according to [Donna Rice Hughes](#), president of [Enough Is Enough](#), a Virginia-based nonprofit that works to make the Internet safer for children and families. Read more at <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jun/15/epidemic-growth-of-net-porn-cited/#ixzz2W6qea47M>

<sup>5</sup> “Just How Big Are Porn Sites”, by Sebastian Anthony, ExtremeTech.com, April 4, 2012. Read more at <http://www.extremetech.com/computing/123929-just-how-big-are-porn-sites>

Such portrayals *scream* to have a different label from the smiling faces in contrived, but non-violent, poses conjured up by the word "pornography". Grouping acts of violence and abuse with images from Playboy, Penthouse, on-demand adult TV is a short coming of our language and does tremendous disservice to society. The two are *not* the same. Nevertheless, the word pornography today does span this extreme range of any image that involves nudity or sex and we reluctantly continue that tradition in this book.

## Pornography versus Sexual Abuse

Pornography now exists in a nearly innumerable number of forms. Our purpose is not to argue for or against pornography as a whole, which some argue is an inseparable part of our sexuality. Rather, the goal of this chapter is make sure that everyone knows what their husbands, their sons, and their brothers may be watching and to shine a light on the growing abusiveness of online pornography.

Such an awareness is the first step towards the ultimate goal which is to eradicate real-life, actual sexual abuse. Pornography that depicts such real-life abuse would not exist if the abuse that it depicts did not happen. You can't take a picture of something that does not exist! However, the converse of that is not true. If pornography depicting sexual abuse is not made, real-life sexual abuse would undoubtedly continue, just without the recording of its occurrence. Sexual abuse is not dependent on being recorded. The following irrefutable facts summarize this concept:

1. Not recording acts of sexual abuse does not prevent those acts from being performed.
2. Not performing acts of sexual abuse does prevent them from being recorded.

In other words, the pornography - the visual images and sounds - is irrelevant. The actual abuse, not the record that it happened, is the problem. Understanding this pair of facts is important for one reason: it helps us to focus on the goal of eradicating real-life actual sexual abuse. Goals require focus if they are to be achieved. Once achieved, new goals can be defined and actions taken to achieve them, but merging multiple goals is to diminish the likelihood of achieving any of them.

Using camera tricks, special effects, and makeup to create a movie starring a well-compensated naked actress being beaten and tortured, or to create an cartoon-like animation of a fictitious child being gang raped by equally fictitious villains, defy our sense of humanity and stretch freedom-of-speech arguments to a point where we rightly question such fundamental values. Yet, dwelling on imaginary and fictitious scenes, however offensive, dilutes our efforts to stop real-life, actual sexual abuse and reduces our ability to make substantive progress towards eradicating actual abuse.

Focusing on actual, real-life sexual abuse is not to condone staged or imagined horrific images, but an acknowledgement that picking ones battles is a proven strategy for success. Eradicating real-life sexual abuse requires consensus among people, among nation, and among our institutions. Success requires a laser-like focus. With that focus in mind, pornography remains an important consideration. To the extent that pornography or the thoughts behind it drive sexual abuse, it creates a tangible window through which we can view, study, and ultimately defeat that force. To the extent that it angers us, upsets us, disgusts us, it can create the energy needed to move us forward to stop the abuse that it so often depicts.

## The Technology and the Money

The Internet hosts different technologies for sharing information in different ways. The most well know is the World Wide Web or WWW for short. Many people equate the Internet with the World Wide Web, but they are different. For now, let us just focus on the WWW. You can search using Google, Bing, and other search engines and, if you turn off filtering, quickly find your pornography of choice. Many web sites do not host pornography, but rather "link" to it and many that do host pornography include links to other pornography outlets. Such a "link" is simply a reference, like a name, phone number and address in a phone book. The United States created the Internet to share information and it is incredibly effective at doing this. Pornography is simply one form of information. The Internet and pornography is a match made in.... well, Heaven isn't quite right word.

Starting at a search web site, mainstream pornographic web sites are quickly located. Many of these sites include a reference to other web sites, and those web sites reference other web sites, and those web sites reference still other web sites, and so on and so on. Eventually some references refer back to previous web sites or to other websites referred to by previous web sites. Picture all of these linkages visually and you then understand the term *World Wide Web*. It is literally a web of links - of references - between computers all over the world. These links, in addition to being a text reference and connection to different web sites, can also display pictures from a different web site. They can also play music and movies. What this means is that if you are viewing, say, Website A located on a computer in the United States, the images you see, the movies you watch, and the music you listen to, may actually reside on and come from websites on computers located in the Ukraine, in Germany, in Mexico, or where ever. In fact, for most cases, these websites present to you a long list of links and the text, images and videos for the different links actually come from different computers scattered around the globe.

Many pornographic websites have a disclaimer at the bottom that reads "We are not responsible for the content. All models are 18 years of age or over at the time the photo was taken. Click [HERE](#) to report any abuse." Despite the disclaimer, you might find

yourself staring, sickened and in disbelief, at an image of an infant with an adult penis pressed against her vagina. You might read again "All models are 18 years of age or over..." and realize that the owner of the website has covered his butt while providing horrific images to the world and pathways to even more.

The owners of these websites earn income from referral fees. To manage the referral fees, the links include tracking codes enabling the owners of any given website to be paid each time someone purchases some pornography from one of the websites to which it links. To maximize profits, such websites seek to have a long list of choices. Lists of 100 are common. Some websites organize the links by sexual fetish and the lists of choices seem endless.

Each step from one website to another, accomplished by a single mouse click on a link, indicates your preference. It is a vote for the type of material you want to see. For example, if you wish to watch a woman being tortured, you might click on a link named "Slap that bitch" if no other links on a website appeal to you. The new website though, named "Slap that bitch" goes further and gives more options, like "Squeezed Tits", "Stretched Pussies", "Plumb and Pregnant". "Stretched Pussies" sounds a bit like torture, so you click on that. Now, after just a few clicks, you find a sexual fetish category named, yes, "Torture". You click on it and instantly see examples of horrific abuse. You may make a purchase, or you might just look at the freebies. All the sites have freebies. The owners of the websites want you to make a purchase, but they are patient and your one decision hardly matters. The operational costs are so very, very low, and the number of visitors - the website traffic - is so very, very high (450 million people per month<sup>6</sup> and growing), that it is just a numbers game. The above scenario plays out millions of times each day on millions of websites, 4.2 million websites in 2006<sup>7</sup>, generating enormous sums of money for their owners. Global Internet pornography revenue generated over \$3000 per second in 2011, according to Business Insider<sup>8</sup>.

## Examples

Earlier I stated what many already know: pornography is rampant on the Internet. Yet, until you see the vastness for yourself, comprehending the magnitude of the problem is difficult. The next pages list just a few hundred websites to give you a feel for some of the more disturbing topics and their abundance. We encourage you to sit down, take a deep breath, then read the list of website names, one by one, and imagine the contents, if you can, on each one. Remember, these are actual, but incomplete, names of websites,

<sup>6</sup> According to information reported in the Huffington Post on May 4, 2013, pornographic web sites have 450 million different users each month: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/03/internet-porn-stats\\_n\\_3187682.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/03/internet-porn-stats_n_3187682.html)

<sup>7</sup> According to data reported by Top Ten Reviews website 4.2 million pornographic websites existed in 2006:: <http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/15-things-you-need-to-know-about-internet-porn-2011-8?op=1>

slightly modified to avoid being a registry of pornographic web sites. Some of these websites may no longer be in business. Many of the sites are legitimate, or at least legal, businesses and to their credit work hard to be legally compliant with pornography and obscenity laws. They chose their name simply to be provocative and to attract customers. Other sites, however, come and go quickly due to the nature of their content. There are no typos; misspellings are intentional and numbers are sometimes uses as letters. What appears in the list reflects the actual website name.

The complete website name often requires a prefix and always requires a “top-level domain”, such as the “.com” that Internet users are used to. There are many other top-level domain names including “.xxx”. The website owner selects the top-level domain, but unfortunately, the most appropriate top-level domain, “.xxx”, is seldom used for such sites or is used only for trademark protection. This is most likely because the .xxx label makes their web site so easily blocked by security software.

This is the state of affairs today with our current laws and it is getting worse.



## A Sample of Pornographic Web Sites

1 free teen pictures	Clean teen pussy	Fresh teen videos
1 little	Crazy cool pics	Fresh tube
1 <sup>st</sup> amateur	Crazy p0rn	Fresh xxx movies
1 teen porn	Cruel bdsm tube	Fresh xxx movies
1 wild tube	Cunt crack	Fresh young chicken
2 eat	Cute model	From teen to teen
3d daughter list	Cute top	Fuck teen hard
3 teen tube	Cut teen cheaters	F u x ee
6 teen tube	Daddy's pet	Gentle down
Absolute taboo	Daddy's thumbs	GF xxx chicks
Ace modeling	Damage tube	Girl friends porn tube
Ah me fuck	Dark categories	Girly berry
Amok porn	Desired young ass	Girl models
Anal movie teen	Desire home sex	Gold hom video
Angels movies	Dessert models	Go to teen sex
Art 2 teen	Diamond tgp	Hairless pussy
Art nude galleries	Easy going sluts	Hardcore gang bang
Art xxx love	Eat on pussy	Hardcore teen dream
Ass teen tube	E cuties	HD teen vids
A teenies tube	Electric teens	Hidden cams video
Babe top	Excellency teens	Hit erotica
Babiez	Exclusive pretens	Home fuckk
Bad daddy	Family tube	Home made fucked
Bad teen sex	Family video	Home made sex teens
Bad teens tube	Favorite teens	Home porn bay
Bdsm tube	Flash top	Home whores
Bdsm vids	Flexi teens	Horny fucking teens
Beautiful kiss	Flick teen	Hot fresh teens
Beauty and passion	Forbidden collections	Hot home porn videos
Beauty angels	Forbidden taboo	Hot shame
Beauty teen tube	Forbidden young	Hot teen movies
Bluffy porn	Family taboo	Hot teens fuck
Bobbie model	Forced club	Hot teens luv
Brutal fetish	FP sex gals	HQ top list
Brutal sex tube	Free porn teen	Il legal pussy
Brutal vids	Free smut porno	Ice hot pix
Charming girls	Free teen vids	Ideal teens
Charming teen	Free tiny girls	Illegal anime
Cherry face	Free tiny panties	Illegal cartoons
Chicki piki	Fresh hole	Illegal fuck
Cinderella girl	Fresh pictures	Immodest teens

Incest news	Oil teens	Secret lustful desires
Incest porn tube	Online porno baron	Sex for free tube
Incest vids	Only nn girls	Sex gaz
I xxx	OO sex	Sex teenator
JB teens	Out size porn	Sexxy teen tube
Junior taboo	Penguin vids	Sexy stars tube
Just teenz	Perfect porn girls	Sexy young teens
Kanga movies	Perversius	Shocking young
Keez movies	Pink lips	Shy girlies
Kind porn	Pink rod	Sinful daughters.
Leggy cash	Pin up angels	Sinister porn
Lick holes	Planet teen girls	Site palace
Little amateur girls	Porn bomb shell	Small tits tube videos
Little girlies	Pornester	Small hot girls
Little moist vagina	Porn oogle	Special teen sx
Lola nude	Porn teen	Spicy x teens
Lolita cams	Pretty amateur girls	Stolen home movies
Loly mania	Pretty bold	Sweet berry teeny
Lust galleries	Pretty nu	Sweet lovers
Lust teens	Pretty youngs	Sweet tube
Mad pain	Private movies	Sweet tweet
Massage girlies	Private porn films	Sx teen girls
Mexico teen	Private sex films	Taboo video
Models hot	Private teen movies	Tee gallz
Models list	Pure beauty	Teen 4 porn
Mommy fuck tube	Pussy ex	Teen after teen
Monarchy tube	Pussy for all	Teenage porn tube
My crazy vids	Quality porn	Teen best videos
My first teens	Raga tube	Teen burg pictures
My fruits	Raped tube	Teen do it
My hidden tv	Rape forced	Teen dv
Naughty kiss	Rape list	Teen el
Naughty teen vids	Rape pictures free	Teen free hardcore
Naughty teen vids	Rape videos	Teen fuckr
Nero porn	Rare porno movies	Teen fuck xxx
New porn fantasy	Rat x	Teen girl sex
New teen sex	Real jailbait girls	Teen girls tube
New x n xx	Real teen sex	Teen hardcore vids
Niches	Real tiny pictures	Teen land
Not for human consumption	Red hot hole	Teen legion
Nude girls galleries	Relax movies	Teen model sex
Nude teens pictures	Re rape	Teen of album
Nu video	Rocket teen	Teen ok
Oh teeny	Satisfucktion	Teen porn cafe

Teen porno movs  
 Teen porn one  
 Teen porn tube  
 Teen pussy tube  
 Teens 4 porn  
 Teen sales post  
 Teens art  
 Teens elf vids  
 Teen sex amateur  
 Teen sex models  
 Teen sexy virgins  
 Teens home clip  
 Teens horny porn  
 Teens porn  
 Teens sins  
 Teens tubes pass  
 Teens young porn  
 Teen x n xx  
 Teen xx  
 Teeny garden  
 Teeny tease  
 The teenest  
 The teen porn  
 Thumb xxx  
 Tight fucking cunt  
 Tina vagina  
 Tiny and sweet  
 Tiny cams  
 Tiny girlz  
 Tiny little girl friend  
 Tiny little photos  
 Tiny model teens  
 Tiny teens pussy  
 Tiny teens tube  
 Toda rape videos  
 Tooo young  
 Top dolls  
 Top link sitez  
 Totty cuties  
 Trusted vids  
 Tube lovely girls  
 Tube zic  
 Tz artop  
 Ukraine hotties

Uncensored cartoons  
 Untouched beauty  
 U teen top  
 Vagina lane  
 Vc teens  
 Very nice lolas  
 Very young  
 Vicky fuck<sup>9</sup>  
 Vicky glam<sup>2</sup>  
 Vicky tube<sup>2</sup>  
 Vid earn archive  
 Violent vids  
 Virgin beauties  
 Virgins nude  
 Virgin teen movies  
 Wanta teen  
 Watch my girlfriend  
 Wet solo  
 Wet virgin  
 Wet x  
 World collections  
 Xkx empire  
 Xy war  
 Yaw porn tube  
 Yeah teen tube  
 Yea teens  
 Yola site  
 Young 6  
 Young and virgin  
 Young and virgin  
 Young area  
 Young close up  
 Young dream  
 Young dream x  
 Youngest lolas  
 Youngest petite  
 Youngest vaginas  
 Young fuck  
 Young girls fuck

Young legal porn  
 Young movies  
 Young perfect girls porn  
 Young porn  
 Young sex bomb.  
 Youngs list  
 Young slit  
 Young swirls  
 Young tiny sex  
 Young tiny teens  
 Young uder ground  
 Young x teens  
 Youn vids  
 Your dark desires  
 Your freak tube  
 Your porn tube clips  
 You teen vid  
 You tube like  
 Zex  
 Zip teen tube  
 Zupa teens

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Websites on the Darknet<sup>10</sup> do not feel a need to hide their intent. There, websites use their names to boast of blatantly illegal and abusive content using names like the following.

Onion Pedo Video Archive  
 Pedo Links  
 Pedo Wiki  
 Lolita City  
 The Hidden Wiki - Hard Candy

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<sup>9</sup> Well known within the child porn community, “Vicky” is also the name used to identify a series of child porn videos made in the United States circa 2000.

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<sup>10</sup> Inside Silk Road, the Shadow Web’s Den of Illicit Drugs by Adrian Chen, Wired Magazine, April 16, 2013.  
<http://www.wired.com/magazine/2013/04/silkroad/>

In a matter of *minutes* such lists can be assembled.

If you are not yet convinced of the abundance of sexual abuse on the Internet, consider this. In 1999, the U.S. Postal Service shut down Landslide Productions, a website owned by a U.S. company that distributed child pornography over the Internet<sup>11,12</sup>. Landslide Productions had approximately 75,000 customers worldwide. That was one website dealing in child pornography in 1999: 75,000 customers. In a paper<sup>13</sup> presented to the Interpol Specialist Group on Crimes against Children in September 2011, it was reported that in 2006 trade in child abuse materials was worth \$3 billion annually. By 2009, the estimate was \$20 billion annually. In the words of the author: “evidence of profound escalation in a global context”. Today, in 2013, child pornography is so abundant that it is free. As with the traditional entertainment industry, if you want the very latest films, there is a price or a trade required, but for older images and videos, they are as free as the books in our libraries.

Going to the Internet to find evidence of sexual abuse is like going to the garbage dump to find garbage. It is not only not hard, it is inevitable. You can collect as much as you choose, for as long as you choose, and never seem to make a dent. In fact, the garbage is accumulating and growing faster than we can gather it up. Of course, most people choose to not visit the garbage dump. This is undoubtedly the wise choice for many, but such a choice creates the dilemma that, without that visit, you can never fully grasp the consequences of having such trash in our midst and you do not see that it is growing with each passing day. Without visiting the garbage dump its stench fails to make a mark on your memory, its maggots remain hidden, and the sight of precious items slowly rotting away can never stir you to action.

The magnitude of that seemingly endless pit stretching in all directions fails to make an impact without seeing it firsthand. Without seeing the horror for ourselves, the destructive effect of so much garbage remains beyond our experiences; the scenes fail to haunt our thoughts, and the level of disgust needed to energize us to act, to speak up and voice our concerns, may never be achieved. We hope that the above list will convey an inkling of the problem and be sufficient to stir you to action. Whatever you imagine the images behind those names to be, I tell you with certainty, they are much, much worse.

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<sup>11</sup> **Abuse Images and the Internet** by Quayle, E., Erooga, M., Wright, L., Taylor, M. & Harbinson, D. (2006) in *Only Pictures? Therapeutic work with Internet sex offenders*. Edited by: Quayle, E., Erooga, M., Wright, L., Taylor, M., & Harbinson, D. Lyme Regis: Russell House Publishing Ltd; 2006:1-11.

<sup>12</sup> **The Impact of Viewing on Offending Behavior** by Quayle, E. in *Child Sexual Abuse and the Internet: Tackling The New Frontier* Edited by Calder MC, Lyme Regis; Russell House Publishing Ltd; 2004:25-36.

<sup>13</sup> **Child abuse material and the Internet: Cyberpsychology of online child related sex offending** by Aiken, M., Moran, M., & Berry, M. J. (2011) in a paper presented at the *29th Meeting of the INTERPOL Specialist Group on Crimes against Children* Lyons, France 5-7th September 2011.

DRAFT

*"The most important thing in defining child sexual abuse is the experience of the child. It takes very little for a child's world to be devastated. A single experience can have a profound impact on a child's life. A man sticks his hand in his daughter's underpants, or strokes his son's penis once, and for that child, the world is never the same again."*

- Laura Hough, *Allies in Healing: When the Person You Love Is a Survivor of Child Sexual Abuse*

## **PART 2. The Problems**

Many books provide detailed statistics of sexual abuse organized by nation, by the nature of the abuse, by the age of the victims, or by the characteristics of the abuser. These impersonal statistics wear on our souls but do little to help us understand the issues. So here, in Part 2, we focus instead on the harm sexual abuse inflicts on those caught up in its web, and the issues that contribute to its existence. Once we understand the damage that results from sexual abuse and once we understand the issues that prop up sexual abuse in our society – the unintentional support structures that actually help sexual abuse to exist, then we will be ready to discuss the solutions detailed in Part 3.

Chapter 6 gives some insight into the long-term mental and physical damage caused by sexual abuse.

Chapter 7 outlines how well intentioned laws contribute to the problem and Chapter 8 touches on the pervasiveness of sexual abuse throughout our society.

Chapter 9 explores the relationship between pornography and sexual abuse while Chapter 10 highlights the difficulty of dealing with sexual issues in our society.

*“Men do not need to fully understand the harm of childhood sexual abuse in order to acknowledge the reality of such harm and then to act based on that reality – understood or not.”*



## Chapter 6. Harm

**harm**<sup>14</sup>: *noun* \ˈhärm\

1: physical or mental damage : INJURY

“Throughout the world, one in three women will experience violence in their lifetime, such as beating, rape, or assault”, according to a 2003 UNIFEM<sup>15</sup> report<sup>16</sup>. The ACE<sup>17</sup> study from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention using data from 1995 to 1997 indicates that nearly 25% of women in the United States experienced childhood sexual abuse. That study defined sexual abuse as the occurrence of the following:

“An adult or person at least 5 years older ever touched or fondled you in a sexual way, or had you touch their body in a sexual way, or attempted oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you or actually had oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you.”

Together, these studies tell us what we already know: sexual abuse of women neither starts nor stops at the onset of adulthood, and it is rampant. For some it starts as an infant. Yes, sadly, 6% of child pornography victims were infants at the time of their abuse<sup>18</sup>. Many of these images clearly show adults raping and sodomizing infants. Abuse, short for abnormal use, is an intimate form of violence perpetrated typically by men against others of all ages, typically women, but not always. Sexual abuse of the most vulnerable of us - of children - turns the stomach and sickens virtually all of us, regardless of our culture, our race, our religion, or our position.

Many forms of abuse leave obvious physical trails: black eyes, lacerated and bleeding skin, and broken bones and few people dispute the short-term damage. However, a major problem is that the harm done by many forms of abuse, especially child sexual abuse, is not obvious to everyone. The most blatant forms of child pornography sicken most everyone, yet it happens. How can this be? How can it sicken nearly everyone yet continue to be produced? One of the answers lies in the sequence of events. Within a family, the brutal rape of a child doesn't just happen one day; rather, it is a slow, methodical process and you can see it unfold in the world's collection of online child pornography.

<sup>14</sup> Merriam-Webster online dictionary at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/harm>

<sup>15</sup> UNIFEM was the women's fund at the United Nations, dedicated to advancing women's rights and achieving gender equality. It is now part of UN WOMEN, a UN entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.unifem.org/materials/item\\_detail86d2.html](http://www.unifem.org/materials/item_detail86d2.html)

<sup>17</sup> “Prevalence of Individual Adverse Childhood Experiences”, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ACE Study. Read more at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/prevalence.htm>

<sup>18</sup> “Child Pornography: A Closer Look”, by Michelle K. Collins, Director, Exploited Child Unit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, Virginia, The Police Chief, vol. 74, no. 3, March 2007. Read more at [http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article\\_id=1139&issue\\_id=32007](http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=1139&issue_id=32007).

Study the eyes of a child being abused in a child pornography video or image and you will see the stages of child sexual abuse in these eyes. Specifically, you will see one of three things:

1. Happy, playful, sparkling eyes that we expect to see in children
2. Terror and tear filled eyes showing fear, betrayal, and sometimes, no doubt, physical pain
3. Dull, blank, emotionless eyes, dead to the world and their senses

Getting to stage 1 is the problem. Professionals in the field call this the “grooming” phase, where otherwise decent men prepare their daughters for a childhood of abuse. Men are notoriously dumb when it comes to emotions. Of course, that is a generalized statement and exceptions abound. Just watch the videos, though, and hear the dialog and you will not see the monsters we expect, at least not at the beginning. These are fathers. Some of them, not all and perhaps not even most, but some, appear to care for the children they are about to abuse, or at worst, to be indifferent. Many men want what they want when they want it and if they see no harm, they go for what they want. This inability to see the harm, that is the problem. During stage one, the harm cannot be seen by many men and this is what can be fixed.

When Debbie shared with me her childhood abuse, my reaction was “That was a long time ago. How can it be affecting you now?” Through discussions with her and by seeing the effects, I came to know that the harm was real. I felt no damage from the fellatio performed on me years ago, and I had long ago forgotten about the pornography shared with me in my teenage years, so the unseen harm from acts long ago escaped my understanding. The harm inflicted on my wife is, to this day, difficult for me to grasp and I suspect that many men share this shortcoming. The insight, however, is this: Men do not need to fully understand the harm of childhood sexual abuse in order to acknowledge the reality of such harm and then to act based on that reality – understood or not. My wife *was* upset. Today as we write these words and revisit those events, her stomach churns with pain. Mental anguish is not imaginary; our inability to see it in another human does not diminish its existence.

One need only track the lives of sexual abuse victims to learn of the long-term harm of childhood sexual abuse. I see this first hand with my cousin Linda and with my wife. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the ACE study mentioned earlier, concludes that with an increasing amount of emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, “the risk for the following health problems increases in a strong and graded fashion:

- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Depression
- Fetal death
- Health-related quality of life
- Illicit drug use
- Ischemic heart disease (IHD)
- Liver disease
- Risk for intimate partner violence

- Multiple sexual partners
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Smoking
- Suicide attempts
- Unintended pregnancies
- Early initiation of smoking
- Early initiation of sexual activity
- Adolescent pregnancy”

DRAFT

*"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing."*

— Theodore Roosevelt

## Chapter 7. The Law

A significant contributor to the problem of sexual abuse is the law itself. Two distinct issues exist regarding the way the law treats sexual abuse and child pornography. These are:

1. The focus is on the obscenity and not on the child
2. The focus is on hiding the problem and not on fixing it

In many states, such as Texas, child pornography is a law of obscenity. Specifically, in the Texas Penal Code child pornography falls under the following hierarchy:

Title 9: Offenses against Public Order and Decency  
 Chapter 43: Public Indecency  
 Subchapter B: Obscenity  
 Section 43.25: Sexual Performance by a Child

The Texas Penal Code also has Title 5: Offenses against the Person, but incredibly, the provisions regarding recording the sexual abuse of a child is an obscenity, an “offense against public order and decency”, not a crime against that child. This is most likely a remnant of previous prohibitions against all forms of pornography and may not seem very important, but it is.

By being an obscenity, instead of sexual abuse, our police, prosecutors and courts focus on the obscenity. If someone believes that this is the path to stopping sexual abuse, consider this:

“In 2009 there were 4,901 arrests that included charges for child possession, compared to 3,672 in 2006 and 1,713 in 2000<sup>19</sup>.” The 3x growth in these types of arrests from 2000 to 2009 shows the growing nature of the problem. If the obscenity approach was working, there should be fewer and fewer arrests with each passing year. Instead, in 2006, there were 116,000 searches for child pornography *every day*<sup>20</sup>, and the number is unquestionably much higher today. The number of people arrested keeps edging up, but is not keeping pace with the explosion of sexual abuse. The current approach is simply not working and an increasing number of children continue to be abused with each passing day.

The above quoted Crimes Against Children Research Center study<sup>21</sup> also reports that “The proportion of child pornography arrestees who were identified as child molesters in cases that

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<sup>19</sup> “Trends in Arrests for Child Pornography Possession: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)”, by Janis Wolak, David Finkelhor & Kimberly J. Mitchell, Crimes Against Children Research Center, April 2012.

<sup>20</sup> This is from a study conducted in 2006. <http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>.

<sup>21</sup> “Trends in Arrests for Child Pornography Possession: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)”, by Janis Wolak, David Finkelhor & Kimberly J. Mitchell, Crimes Against Children Research Center, April 2012.

started out as child pornography investigations dropped from 16% in 2006 to 10% in 2009.” Based on a 6 year study of men arrested for possession of child pornography, this number may now be as low as 1%<sup>22</sup>. This tells us that if we imprison someone who has child pornography we have a 1 in 100, or maybe a 1 in 10 chance of protecting a child from hands-on abuse. However, if we track down the abuser using information in the very evidence that they make available on the Internet, we have 1 in 1 chance of protecting that child.

Here is the most disturbing aspect of the obscenity-focused laws:

“Law enforcement agents in this sample did not identify or contact any of the youth depicted in the child pornography images.”<sup>23</sup>

Removing obscenity from our world is fine, but what about the children? The current obscenity centric focus ignores them, and that simply should not be. Are we truly more concerned about seeing a picture of an adult raping a child than we about the child herself? By not finding the child the instant a new image appears, we are letting the abuse continue, year after year after year. Are we so ashamed of our genitalia, so embarrassed by our own sexuality, that we prefer that the abuse continue rather than risk exposing the abuse? We could readily find abused children by plastering the newspapers and the airwaves with the images of their abusers faces, which are often available, and if not, with the child’s face. When is the last time you saw an abuser’s face from a child pornography video or heard the audio of the abuser’s voice? These identifying images and sounds exist. We, society as a whole, can use these images and sounds to establish the abusers identity and to eradicate sexual abuse, one abuser at a time. We can find the children and we can end the abuse. We just need the will to make it happen.

When the child pornography laws were written, the world was very different. If someone had child pornography it was because he made it, he was selling it, or he bought it. A punishment of 2 to 10 years in prison, as is the case in Texas, is not only appropriate, but perhaps lenient given that children were being harmed. Finding multiple pictures of child pornography meant one of three things:

1. The person was a distributor making the duplicates for sale
2. Multiple children were abused
3. The same child was abused multiple times

To handle this, the Texas law allows an individual charge for each image and for the associated punishments to be stacked, a legal term meaning that the sentences run sequentially, one after the other, instead of in parallel. For the above example, in the state of Texas, the penalty for three

<sup>22</sup> “The consumption of Internet child pornography and violent and sex offending”, by Jerome Endrass, Frank Urbaniok, Lea C Hammermeister, Christian Benz, Thomas Elbert, Arja Laubacher and Astrid Rossegger, BMC Psychiatry 2009, 9:43.

<sup>23</sup> “Defining Child Pornography: Law Enforcement Dilemmas in Investigations of Internet Child Pornography Possession”, by Melissa Wells, David Finkelhor, Janis Wolak & Kimberly J. Mitchell, Public Practice and Research Vol. 8, No. 3, July 2007, pp 269-282.

images becomes 6 to 30 years in prison. Most people would agree that this is an appropriate range of punishment for harming three children or abusing the same child 3 times.

Today, however, the world is very different. People create multiple electronic copies of data files, computer programs, and images effortlessly and virtually without cost, just to have a backup, that is, they create an extra copy in case the computer should break or the original data somehow be damaged. Digital cameras, often built into our phones, make even the original image virtually free. People take 10 pictures of the same event over the course of 10 seconds, just because they can. None of this is to condone sexual abuse, of course, nor child pornography. The point is simply that a picture is not what it used to be. For all practical purposes, images, including the horrific images depicting child abuse, are now free. Child pornography is no longer something people must buy to possess, though an ever-increasing number of people still do. Freely and publicly available, sexual abuse videos and images are abundant and are more like disgusting trash along the highway. The crime for a passerby is not that child pornography exists – it does exist, that is simply a fact. The crime - the real crime - is to do nothing about it.

*"The Pentagon estimates that 19,000 rapes or sexual assaults are committed each year in the military by service members on other service members."*

- Representative Jackie Speier  
in the New York Daily News,  
August 26, 2012



## Chapter 8. Institutionalized Sexual Abuse

Over the last 100 years a disturbing trend has emerged - the institutionalization of sexual abuse. In our churches<sup>24</sup>, our schools<sup>25</sup>, our military<sup>26</sup>, and in our corporations a blind eye is the preferred solution to sexual abuse. The hear-no-evil, see-no-evil, speak-no-evil mentality is an extension of our obscenity laws that focus on the information – the images – instead of on the abuser. This comes as no surprise, given child pornography laws, which virtually mandate that we ignore the sexual abuse of children, rather than encourage people to find it and turn it in.

The message from the law is clear – sex is obscene and is something to be hidden, never seen, and never discussed. A more harmful well-intentioned law is hard to imagine.

### Three Examples

- The Jerry Sandusky child sexual abuse scandal at Pennsylvania State University. Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia, has an excellent summary of this incident:  
  
“The Penn State child sex abuse scandal was a scandal that broke in 2011 at Pennsylvania State University, as a result of longtime former university football assistant coach Jerry Sandusky's sexual assault of at least eight underage boys on or near university property, and alleged actions by some university officials to cover up the incidents or to enable more. Based on an extensive grand jury investigation, Sandusky was indicted in 2011 on 52 counts of child molestation dating from 1994 to 2009, though the abuse may have dated as far back as the 1970s. Per the findings of the grand jury, several high-level school officials were charged with perjury, suspended, or dismissed for covering up the incidents or failing to notify authorities. Most notably, school president Graham Spanier was forced to resign, and head football coach Joe Paterno and athletic director Tim Curley were fired<sup>27</sup>.”
- The statutory rape of a 16-year-old employee at Starbucks by her supervisor.

<sup>24</sup> *Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: A Decade of Crisis, 2002-2012*, edited by Thomas G. Plante and Kathleen L. McChesney, published by Praeger, October 11, 2011.

<sup>25</sup> [Child sexual abuse and our schools](http://www.examiner.com/article/child-sexual-abuse-and-our-schools), by Dr. Iris Pagan, Examiner.com, June 18, 2012. Read more at: <http://www.examiner.com/article/child-sexual-abuse-and-our-schools>

<sup>26</sup> “The Pentagon estimates that 19,000 rapes or sexual assaults are committed each year in the military by service members on other service members” from “Assaults in armed forces must stop immediately” by Representative Jackie Speier, New York Daily News, August 26, 2012. Read more at <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/assaults-armed-forces-stop-immediately-article-1.1145101#ixzz2WDv5gigI>

<sup>27</sup> Penn State child sex abuse scandal, Wikipedia, June 15, 2013. Read more at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penn\\_State\\_child\\_sex\\_abuse\\_scandal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penn_State_child_sex_abuse_scandal)

Several U.S. media outlets, including ABC, reported how a Starbucks shift supervisor had an ongoing sexual relationship with a 16-year-old barista<sup>28</sup> at work. The work-time sexual activities with the underage girl was reported to Starbucks by the girl's mother, who told ABC, "Other Starbucks supervisors and managers knew what was happening but did nothing to stop the illicit relationship." About 6 months later, Starbucks and the teenager's mother quietly reached a confidential settlement<sup>29</sup>.

- Repeated and on-going claims by women who serve their country of the U.S. military ignoring charges of sexual abuse.  
Headlines of sexual abuse in the U.S. military are now routine in the United States. The quote introducing this chapter is one example. The headline from a UK publication, "Daily Mail Online", is typical: "U.S. army general accused of ignoring sex assaults suspended in Japan as abuse scandals continue to rock the military"<sup>30</sup>.

The common thread to each of these, and to similar stories that seem to emerge daily, is the blind eyes, deaf ears, and mute voices of people who know about the sexual abuse. These individuals intentionally and deliberately remain silent, knowingly letting horrific sexual abuse continue: young boys in a college shower room, young girls at their first job, and women of all ages routinely sexually assaulted. Institutionalized sexual abuse and the hiding of it *is* the culture of our public and private institutions. And no wonder when we all just want to close our eyes to the horrific sexual abuse of children that is only a few clicks of a computer mouse away.

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<sup>28</sup> "16-Year-Old Starbucks Barista Sues Over 'Sex Demands' at Work", by Vic Walter, Angela M. Hill, and [Brian Ross](http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/Teen/teenage-starbucks-barista-sues-sex-demands-work/story?id=9631145#_Ubyzevl4zKc), ABC 20/20, January 22, 2010. Read more at [http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/Teen/teenage-starbucks-barista-sues-sex-demands-work/story?id=9631145#\\_Ubyzevl4zKc](http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/Teen/teenage-starbucks-barista-sues-sex-demands-work/story?id=9631145#_Ubyzevl4zKc)

<sup>29</sup> "Starbucks Settles Statutory-Rape Case", by Siouxsie Law, June 3, 2010. Read more at <http://siouxsielaw.com/2010/06/03/starbucks-settles-statutory-rape-case/>.

<sup>30</sup> "U.S. army general accused of ignoring sex assaults suspended in Japan as abuse scandals continue to rock the military" by Associated Press, Mail Online News, June 8, 2013. Read more at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2337912/U-S-army-general-accused-ignoring-sex-assaults-suspended-Japan.html#ixzz2WKcZRyzZ>

DRAFT

*"To fix a problem,  
we must first understand it."*

## Chapter 9. Child Pornography and Sexual Abuse

To fix a problem, we must first understand it. To understand it, it is essential that we correctly understand the issue of causality, that is, what causes what. For example, say that you see two individuals passionately, venomously fighting with each other, and you ask an observer as to why. He responds, “Because they hate each other.” So, they are fighting because they hate each other. This seems believable and fully explains the immediate situation.

Say that you then get your hands on a time-lapsed surveillance video and sure enough, you see the two individuals approach walk hurriedly towards each other – in a jerky fashion due to time gaps in the time-lapsed video, and they begin fighting as soon as they are within striking distance. Obviously, these two individuals know and hate each other and that is why they are fighting. But then you find another video, one without any gaps in it and you watch the same scene. The individuals walk towards each other but this time you can see that neither is paying much attention to their surroundings. Then, just as they near, they each look briefly away at different clocks at opposite ends of the block. The video shows them walking straight into each other and each reflexively pushes back the other. Then they intentionally push the other person. Then again and again they push one another, with their anger and fierceness increasing with each exchange. You realize that these two people are not fighting because they hate each other. They hate each other, because they are fighting.

Understanding causality correctly is the *only* way to solve a problem. In the example above, if we accepted the first explanation, our efforts to solve such conflicts would go towards fighting the perceived hatred. We could organize educational classes, write books, and even mandate one-on-one meetings to combat the perceived hatred. Yet, on crowded streets, people would continue to bump into one another and the fighting would continue. However, once we understand the true causality, the solution becomes obvious: establish lanes on the sidewalks as on our streets. Collisions become rare and the fighting abates.

The above is a silly example and indeed some people do fight because they hate each other. However, some people do in fact hate each other only because they find themselves entangled in a fight. How we resolve these two different situations is very different and success depends entirely on correctly understanding what causes what. The same is true for sexual abuse and the free and publicly available child pornography spread throughout the world today: the solution to these problems depends on the causes.

As mentioned in Chapter 5, the U.S. Postal Service shut down Landslide Productions, a website owned by a U.S. company that distributed child pornography over the Internet to approximately 75,000 customers worldwide. A 6-year study<sup>31</sup>, published in BMC Psychiatry, followed the

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<sup>31</sup> “The consumption of Internet child pornography and violent and sex offending”, by Jerome Endrass, Frank Urbaniok, Lea C Hammermeister, Christian Benz, Thomas Elbert, Arja Laubacher and Astrid Rossegger, BMC Psychiatry 2009, 9:43.

criminal activities of 231 of these individuals who had been located and convicted of possessing child pornography. The authors of that study concluded the following:

“Among the subjects of the present study, only 1% were known to have committed a past hands-on sex offense, and only 1% were charged with a subsequent hands-on sex offense in the 6 year follow-up. The consumption of child pornography alone does not seem to represent a risk factor for committing hands-on sex offenses in the present sample – at least not in those subjects without prior convictions for hands-on sex offenses.”

Concluding that a person is a child predator solely because he or she is in possession of horrific, disturbing images of children being abused is equivalent to concluding that a person is a terrorist solely because he or she has horrific, disturbing images of the attack on the World Trade Center building in New York City on September 11, 2001. If possession was the sole criteria, everyone with such an image on their computer, in their encyclopedias, in their magazines, or on a memorial calendar, are enemy combatants of the United States of America.

The legislature, to their credit, recognized this problem and explicitly listed circumstances where possession of child pornography was expected, and not a criminal act at all, despite how horrible the pictures are, despite the specific acts depicted. Likewise, note that child pornography crimes – all of them unfortunately, even its production – are crimes of obscenity in states like Texas. Sadly, the portion of the law says nothing about protecting the child, simply that the images are obscene. And indeed they are.

DRAFT

*"Look at the pictures.  
Read the words.  
And then try not to care."*

- Time Magazine Cover,  
February 12, 2001



## **PART 3. Solutions**

When some people see a complex, persistent problem, they are predisposed to accept it as part of life. “There is nothing we can do”, they claim. When they encounter an obstacle, they walk around it, often an excellent, logical decision – a way to quickly bypass the obstacle and put it out of their lives. Other people, when encountering an obstacle, are driven to overcome it. When faced with a problem, such people strive to solve it, no matter how complex, no matter how unlikely their odds. I am in this latter group. I have never met a problem I did not want to solve, or a question for which I did not want the answer. My wife and I have had many discussions about sexual abuse and we believe there are solutions. Part 3 puts those solutions on the table for discussion; it is a starting point; it is a call for help.

Chapter 10, What Parents and Caregivers Can Do to Eradicate Sexual Abuse, focuses on the first step to widespread eradication, namely education, and protection. We must not belittle sexual abuse and must educate our children to be vigilant and our men to be heroes instead of villains.

Chapters 11, What Individuals Can Do to Eradicate Sexual Abuse, focuses on creating awareness in the general population as to the scope and harm of sexual abuse. This chapter details many ways in which each person can make a difference.

Chapters 12, What Governments Can Do to Eradicate Sexual Abuse, describes actions that our governments can take to find predators, to reduce sexual abuse and to more effectively prevent sexual abuse from happening in the first place.

As we instinctively know, and as the quote on the opposite page confirms, pictures are extremely powerful. They arouse our emotions, they move us to tears, and they can incite us to act. Be it coffins of young soldiers returning from war, jet planes flying into buildings, or a man raping a young child, pictures are powerful, even and perhaps especially, the obscene ones. However, for reasons that are beyond the scope of this book, the pictures of abuse remain hidden, so our words must compensate. The solutions in this section aim at helping us do that

The solutions listed are not perfect. Some undoubtedly contain flaws and require refinement. Some are too drastic – require too large of a step – and call for a more nuanced approach. Our belief is that there is a common ground, worldwide, and that solutions do exist. Our expectation is not to eradicate sexual abuse and child pornography overnight, though the benefits of doing that hopefully are obvious. Rather, our hope is only to start a dialog about this difficult yet crucial subject. Open, honest, and unfiltered discussion is the first step to eradicating the sexual abuse of children and the evil of child pornography. Please take this step with us.

*“Talk to your kids about sex,  
because perpetrators do.”*

Chapter 10. What Parents and Caregivers Can Do to Eradicate Sexual Abuse  
by *Debra Robison*

Childhood sexual abuse is a heinous crime that affects a child's entire life. We as adults want to do everything we can to protect our children so we pass laws in hopes of doing just that. Although these laws are essential in order to get perpetrators off the street let's do something to prevent child abuse before it happens. Being an educator, I believe that the only way to make behavioral changes in our society is through education. One of the first things I would tell anyone whether they are an adult or a child is to believe in yourself. When your gut tells you something is wrong, it is. One of life's greatest gifts to us is our sixth sense or that little voice in our heads that tells us when things are wrong. Trust your instincts. Even if it turns out that you were wrong about something, your inner voice is telling you that you're uncomfortable: honor and respect that feeling; do not ignore it. Perhaps later you will discover why a certain someone or situation made you uncomfortable.

When I remembered my childhood sexual abuse, a program for adult survivors was my lifeline. Through that support group, I learned that I was not alone and that I had a safe place to deal with my issues. In attendance were adult and teen survivors, mothers of survivors, siblings and perpetrators. The facilitators of the program were there to guide us through our issues, protect us when we were emotionally vulnerable and to help each of us progress at our own pace towards healing. If we wanted to and if the facilitators thought that we were ready, we could confront our own perpetrator or address our issues to a "volunteer perpetrator". This was a vital step not just for the survivor but for the perpetrator as well. What people fail to understand is that it is vital to educate perpetrators and would-be perpetrators. Of course, it is important to help survivors of sexual abuse after the abuse has happened but to me it is even more important to educate perpetrators so that abusive acts are not repeated. By educating the all of the men in our lives, men of all ages, much abuse can be stopped before it starts. Whom amongst us would rather deal with a problem after it happens than prevent it before it happens? If perpetrators knew the damage they were causing to the own children, at least some of the abuse would be avoided. Certainly there are those that are mentally ill and hurt for pleasure but most people simply are ignorant of the damage they inflict. This was my experience and Mark believes that was the experience of his cousin. This is yet another reason to not be quiet. No matter how hard people try to keep childhood sexual abuse quiet it continues and is growing exponentially due to the technology available on the internet. It is a worldwide problem and current approaches are not working.

Looking back to when I was eight years old, I can honestly say it feels like I knew absolutely nothing about anything. In reality of course, I didn't know about sex nor should I have. I was a blank slate to be written on. The author, Barry Lopez, says it best in his article for Harper's called "Sliver of Sky: Confronting the Trauma of Sexual Abuse". He answers the questions, "why doesn't anybody suspect what's happening? Also, why does it seem that a child subjected to sexual violence perpetuated for years offer such "meager" resistance". Mr. Lopez responds by saying "I believe it's because the child is too innocent to plan effectively, and because from the very start, the child, faces a labyrinth of confused allegiances". He also asked himself questions

he couldn't answer: "Do I actually need protection in this situation? From what precisely? Bewildered by what's happening, how can I explain to my mother what I was doing." The answer from Mr. Lopez is that "A child's alternatives never get much beyond endurance and avoidance." For me, this article was a scathing testament to the evil that exists in the world. I believe the solution to horror stories like this is to educate our children about their bodies and to let them know no one has the right to touch their "private parts". Please don't tell children to obey all elders just tell them to show them respect. Also, please don't carry on old adage, "children should be seen and not heard"; you could be re-enforcing what an abuser is telling them.

The goal of my paternal aunt, who raised me as her own daughter, was to protect me from any harm whatsoever. She would do anything for me. For that reason, she kept me close to home and totally sheltered. I never slept at any other house than a relative whom she knew well and trusted. I can now say as an adult and a parent myself she is the most wonderful parent in the world (sorry everyone she's mine).

Yet I was sexually abused. So I know now that no matter how much you protect your children you can't be with them all of the time. Because of this reality, you have to give them the tools they need to protect themselves. Let them know that they have the right to say NO to anyone that wants to do anything to them that makes them uncomfortable, and that they can tell you anything. My problem was that I was a child and therefore thought like a child. I didn't know it was inappropriate for him to do what he was doing and since he was a family member, I trusted him. I was shy and quiet so he befriended me and talked to me about "things" like the name for my body parts. There are characteristics that child abusers look for in their victims. Perpetrators report that they look for passive, quiet, troubled, lonely children from single parent or broken homes (Budin & Johnson). I was passive, trusting, quiet and lonely. My parents were divorced when I was 2 years old, which had the unforeseen negative effect of putting me in harm's way. I did not live with my perpetrators side of the family but stayed with them for visits. Statistically, children who live with two married biological parents are the least abused, while children with a single parent with a live-in partner are 20 times more likely to be abused (Sedlack, et. Al., 2010). For a while, I had multiple people raising me, which may have increased my vulnerability.

Here are some noteworthy facts, but please remember that behind this emotionless numbers are flesh and blood children.

- Girls are 5 times more likely to be abused than boys (Snyder, 2000).
- Children that live in rural areas are almost 2 times more likely to be abused (Sedlack, et. al., 2010)
- Children are most vulnerable to abuse between the ages of 7 and 13 (Finkelhor, 1994) and the median age is 9 years old (Putnam, 2003).
- African American children have almost twice the risk of sexual abuse than white children and Hispanic children have a slightly higher risk than non-Hispanic white children (Sedlack, et. al., 2010).

Educate your children and they will come to you when a problem arises. If you try to protect your child by not letting them go anywhere or do anything they will be too naïve to recognize a problem. As parents, you may be able to scare your children into staying away from strangers but that leaves them prey to friends, neighbors and quite possibly, according to statistics, a relative. Even a young child knows that the perpetrator is secretive and he or she may not want them to talk about the secret. If a child feels it is okay to talk to their parents about anything including something that makes them uncomfortable, such as their abuse, you have a much better chance of finding out about that abuse and ending it.

Talk to your kids about sex because perpetrators do. They start by using a language to communicate with the child about their bodies. Start with teaching your child the name of their body parts. It is important to know the name they have for their genitals; otherwise, you may miss something that they're trying to tell you about some strange experience they had with an uncle or with daddy.

When I worked for the state of New Jersey, I trained day care workers to recognize and report all types of abuse. When I talked about childhood sexual abuse I divided my class into groups and had them compete against each other in naming all the words they have heard for “vagina”, “penis” and “intercourse”. The idea is, if you work with children you need to know their terminology otherwise you may miss something important that they are trying to tell you. You should know as much as possible about the age group you’re dealing with. I was surprised with what the groups came up with at the time such as “whopper and home of the whopper”. I guess a certain fast food place was popular with the children at the time.

If you work with children, you must be approachable; otherwise, they will not tell you about their abuse. Over 30% of child sex abuse victims never tell anyone about their abuse. If you learn of abuse, report it to the authorities. It is not your place to investigate, judge or rescue this person. The most important role for someone who works with children is that of confidant and supporter. Abuse can be reported anonymously so that others can investigate the situation and do something about it if necessary. A hotline is in the Appendix to this book. Continue to believe the person telling you they are being abused. They need you to be there for them.

If you are a parent of a young child, answer their questions about their bodies and sex. A child is not too young to hear the answer to any question that they are asking. Tailored the answer and the amount of detail to their age, but it should always be truthful. For example, babies come from inside of mommy, not from storks! Don't worry. They will go away and digest the answers you gave them and if they still have question they will come back to you. For help explaining things to your child, there are books at the library that you can read together. Of course, if you have any inkling that your child is being sexually abused you need to ask them further questions to find out exactly what is happening and possibly to protect them. Even under circumstances involving sexual abuse, you can gently question your child, being careful not to traumatize them further. Be open and available to your child and they will ask you questions on their level of sophistication. When they are ready, they will ask deeper questions. Remember; when a perpetrator is “grooming” a child for abuse, they talk to them a lot in order to become their

friend. This “grooming” can take place over long periods as long as they have access to the child. I know this because I personally experienced “grooming” from the time I was about 8 years old until I was a young adult at which time I was finally able to say “No”. In my case, in the later years, I was not physically available to him except on vacations. You should be the one your child talks to about sex not a potential abuser.

Don’t ever forget, that although childhood sexual abuse is predominantly a male-on-female crime, sexual abuse also finds its way into the lives of some boys, as evidenced by the evil acts of some priests in the Catholic Church.

To me a perpetrator of sexual abuse is a little different from a rapist. A rapist rapes in anger but a “groomer” generally doesn’t. The “groomer” certainly does as much damage to a child mentally and emotionally whether there is sexual penetration or not. Child sexual abusers are selfish and ignorant. That gives us hope that they can be educated and that that education can make a difference. A great example of how education works in preventing sexual abuse was done in 2011 in Canada. Statistics on crime were going down except for sexual assault. The sexual assault rate had gone up by 22% from 2008 to 2009 and another 29% from 2009 to 2010. Several departments dealing with the sexual assault of women decided to do something about it. They ran a very important poster campaign called “Don’t Be That Guy”. The message was that when a woman or a man is inebriated or passed out that does not give someone permission to take advantage of them. One poster I saw really says it all. It is of a young woman passed out on a couch with her back to you and a couple of bottles on the floor next to the couch. The caption on the poster says, “Just because she isn’t saying no doesn’t mean she’s saying yes”. The result of displaying those posters in public restrooms and bars was a dramatic 10% drop in the sexual assault rate. “Good, ordinary” men were able to see that when alcohol was involved if the woman didn’t say no that didn’t mean she was saying yes. Taking this message to the men that do the raping was a great idea. Education worked. Education is the key.

We teach our children everything else, why don’t we teach them to not take advantage of anyone sexually. Society has been putting the responsibility on women for their own victimization by saying that they asked for it by “dressing provocatively” or being “somewhere they shouldn’t have been” instead of teaching men not to rape. The Canadian project put the focus on men to help women be safe by “not being that guy”, and it worked.

One of the first people to say on national television that men need to be taught not to rape is Zerlina Maxwell. On March 5, 2013 she was on the Fox News Sean Hannity show where it was suggested that women should have guns in order to protect themselves from rape and her response was basically, no. She is a rape survivor and knows what sexual abuse is about. She said “I don’t want men telling me what to wear and how to act, and not to drink. And, I don’t want men telling me that I need a gun in order to prevent my rape. I think we should tell men not to rape women and start the conversation there.” People were shocked by her comments and was so against putting responsibility on men for sexual assault that some sent her death threats and wished that she was “raped by an angry Black man” which is crazy on so many levels. We have such a long way to go, but progress is being made. The key is education.

Researchers John Foubert, Eric Godin and Jerry Tatum also did a study proving the difference that education makes in reducing sexual assault. Their subjects were a male freshman class that was required to take a rape prevention class. First, they showed male students a DVD of a male-on-male rape experience. Focusing on a male victim helped the male students to imagine what a rape victim felt. After the men started to feel empathetic, they were asked to close their eyes and imagine that a female like a sister, mother or even grandmother was raped while drinking. Added to the horror of this scenario was that someone saw this happening and did nothing to stop it or report it. It really made a difference that they could be empathetic towards rape survivors. Afterwards, the students had a chance to brainstorm about ways they could intervene to stop rape from happening. This was excellent because men tend to be problem solvers so this was a perfect chance for them to come up with ideas to educate the public about this problem specifically, their circle of influence. The students also learned to be supportive of rape victims and to confront others telling rape jokes or in any other way demeaning women. This class was only an hour long but years later it retained its positive influencing on nearly half of the participants, with 46% reporting that they were more careful about their own sexual activity when drinking. Such an increase in awareness is invaluable. Education can make a difference.

*“Eradicate sexual abuse?*

*...*

*If we do not try, how can we succeed?”*



## Chapter 11. What Individuals Can Do To Eradicate Sexual Abuse

We can classify the abusers seen in child pornography videos into three groups:

- a) Men who do not know they are harming the child
- b) Men who know they may be harming the child, but lack the self-control to be different
- c) Men who know they are harming the child and do not care.

Parents comprise 35% of the abusers in child pornography and neighbors and trusted family friends comprise an additional 28% of such abusers according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children<sup>32</sup>. This is 63% of the cases and these are the people, we believe, in categories a) and b) above. These men can be reached by education and by knowing that other people, especially the women in their lives, do not approve of sexual abuse and are on the lookout for it.

Here are some ideas to get you started.

### 1. Increase awareness of the damage caused to children by sexual abuse

As discussed in Chapter 6, a major contributor to these acts is the lack of understanding of the harm, so the Number 1 action that people can take to eradicate the sexual abuse of children is to TALK ABOUT IT, especially people who have been sexually abused. There is no shame in being sexually abused, just as there is no shame in having a cold. Bad things are in our environment and sometimes they affect us. Women must educate their husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, uncles, nephews, grandfathers and grandsons. Women innately understand the harm and they must take the lead.

- Establish a book club and select books dealing with sexual abuse. They don't need to be heavy works of non-fiction. Novels will do just fine. The point is to talk.
- Create, lead, or join a discussion group at church and suggest that the important topic of sexual abuse be on the agenda sometimes.
- Ask your church leaders to discuss the topic. Leaders should be leading and what better place to teach family members how to treat each other than from the pulpit?

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<sup>32</sup> "Child Pornography: A Closer Look", by Michelle K. Collins, Director, Exploited Child Unit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, Virginia, The Police Chief, vol. 74, no. 3, March 2007. Read more at [http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article\\_id=1139&issue\\_id=32007](http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=1139&issue_id=32007).

2. Keep all forms of pornography away from children

According to Top Ten Reviews website, children, on average, first see Internet pornography at age 11<sup>33</sup>. Parents, older siblings, cousins, relatives, and anyone else having contact with a child must step up and make sure children are exposed to any form of pornography, online or otherwise.

3. Actively lobby your elected officials to work with other countries, the UN, and other international organizations in a coordinated effort to eradicate sexual abuse. This is essential because the Internet is global; countries must work together. Children are exploited and abused in many ways, but virtually everyone on the planet can agree to some minimal set of limits for accomplishing this. It is the 2nd decade of the 21st century. Our political leaders need to make move us one-step closer to being the civilized species that we strive to be. Our leaders must make this happen. We must make this happen.
4. Contact organizations actively working to protect children and ask them how you can help. If board or leadership positions are available, consider stepping up to help steer resources in the most effective directions and to not shy away from bold initiatives.
5. Actively search for, and report, child abuse on the Internet. Report it to the sources of the material and let them know about the long-term harm they are doing to the children. Report it to any intermediaries such as the websites that host the materials, people who forward the materials, and Internet Service Providers, ISPs, that distribute the materials. Let them know that they are complicit in harming these children and ask them why they are not doing more to actively protect the world's children. Report the abuse to both your local authorities, to your elected officials, and to the legal authorities of the originating country, if that can be determined. Evil flourishes in darkness. If enough people shine a bright enough light on it, it cannot survive. We all need to do our part to make this light unrelentingly bright.
6. Follow up on reports of child abuse. Praise people for their actions. Hold them accountable for their inactions.
7. If your financial situation allows it, research organizations involved in stopping child sexual abuse and donate to the one that best matches your beliefs and goals.
8. Actively promote April as Child Abuse Prevention Month<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> This is from a study conducted in 2006. <http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>

<sup>34</sup> Read more about Child Abuse Prevention Month at <http://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/national-child-abuse-prevention-month>

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each April, be sure to bring this up in your church, in your workplace, and in any other setting where many people can be reached. Any organization that does not do at least one thing, be it a sermon, a poster, or a seminar, should be ashamed of themselves. Child abuse is too important to ignore and it is up to each of us individually to lift that veil of ignorance and silence.

DRAFT

*“Openness is the cure. Shame, silence,  
and secretiveness are the causes.”*

## Chapter 12. What Governments Can Do To Eradicate Sexual Abuse

Actions by society, as opposed to actions by individuals, typically take the form of new laws or regulations and by their nature are slow in coming and even slower in their impact. Nevertheless, with few exceptions, governments can do much more to eradicate sexual abuse. Governments react. They help the offended and imprison offenders. Sometimes they pass laws aimed at prevention and occasionally take the lead in education, such as the “Buckle Up” and “Don’t Litter” campaigns. A proactive “Don’t Rape”, “Don’t Abuse Women” mentality is what we need today and it is urgent. Outside of this book, when is the last time that you saw the headline, “Eradicate Sexual Abuse”? If we do not try, how can we succeed?

The solutions are less costly and more effective than the laws and policies in place today. The solutions do not require that our freedom of speech and of the press take a back seat to stopping sexual abuse. All it takes is our collective will to make it happen. The problem is not that there are no solutions; the problem is that society lacks the will and the primary driver of that is the hiding of the problem by well-intentioned laws and well-meaning people.

Here are a few ideas.

### 1. Find and stop those who sexually abuse children.

This is not as impossible as it sounds. It just needs to be the focus of our efforts combatting child pornography. Technology is a force for good as well as for evil. With the assistance of technology stopping the abuse and exploitation of children depicted in child pornography *is* possible and is much easier than one might at first think.

Individuals and society as a whole can do many, many things to stop sexual abuse. For example, governments could license pornographic websites, just as they do with sellers and promoters of alcohol. No license, wrong domain name, the web traffic does not go through. If child porn is *ever* reported for and found on a web site, finding the website owners is now easy, because they are licensed.

### 2. Stop pornography from reaching our children.

This one is easy. Require the use of the .XXX domain name for any web site that traffics in pornography. That way, software filters controlled by parents, libraries, and schools, would be effective in keeping the material out of the computers used by children. Hefty fines could be imposed for violators.

### 3. Update the laws dealing with sexual abuse and child pornography

Writing good laws is not an easy task, and keeping them up to date with ever evolving technology is equally daunting. Nevertheless, we must demand such an effort from our

political leaders if sexual abuse is to be eradicated, so that our focus is on actual abuse. Let's refocus child pornography laws on protecting children, instead of on obscenity. A 16-year old boy who uses a cell phone to send a picture of his penis to a 15 or 16-year old girl, is not a child pornographer. He certainly shows a lack of good judgment, which, as we all know, is the hallmark of our teenage years. More and more children are exploring their sexuality using modern technology. To turn that into felons, a label that will adversely affect their whole life, is highly questionable no matter how much we all want to stop sexual abuse, including sending pictures of our private parts. Our point is that we need a reasoned public discussion and not a knee-jerk reaction.

4. Encourage child pornography and other abusive images to be reported to the authorities and change the laws so that people are not afraid to report the abuses they see.
5. Colleges need to promote discussions of sexual abuse.

A one-hour talk on date rape freshman year is not enough. A highly visible, on-going culture of openness about the realities of sexual abuse in all of its ugly forms is essential. How would the events of the Penn State scandal unfolded if there was a clear message of the harm of sexual abuse being taught regularly? For the people who knew about the abuse, would they have been more inclined to press for appropriate resolution, instead of letting it continue for years? Would the abused have been empowered to speak up, knowing that the topic could be openly and freely discussed? Could years of abuse been avoided? To us the answers are clear. Openness is the cure. Shame, silence, and secretiveness are the causes.

DRAFT

*“The crime for a passerby is not that child pornography exists – it does exist, that is simply a fact. The crime - the real crime - is to do nothing about it.”*

- Chapter 7, Help Us Please: What YOU Can Do To Eradicate Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography



## Chapter 13. Help Us Please

Help us change the world. Please. Please help. No one or two people can eradicate sexual abuse, but all together we can. The world is constantly changing – with or without our efforts. Our part is simply setting the direction of that change. It really and truly is up to us - each of us individually and collectively. Let us each change our small piece of the world one small improvement at a time. When you see wrong, strive to right it. When you hear ignorance, work to correct it. When you see bullying, confront it. When you see abuse, expose it using the biggest, brightest light you can find.

We do not need to hide from sexual abuse. We do not need to be ashamed that we are sexual creatures. We do not need to abandon children just because the images are so very, very disturbing. Hiding horrific evidence of horrific acts serves only to protect the perpetrators. Blank out the children's faces, blank out the genitalia, and do whatever it takes, so that people everywhere can see the horror. How does hiding the evidence of horrific crimes protect children?

Clearly, images of sexual abuse need to be treated with discretion. As with any horror, they certainly are not appropriate for children or anyone who cannot, or simply prefers not, to deal with them. The reasons to expose, and not hide horrific images, edited or not, be they gassing of Jews, nuclear demolition of cities, collapsing towers, or raping of children, are simple:

1. They inform and remind us of the very existence and pervasiveness of such acts, and of the unimaginable evil that is possible
2. They encourage us to act to prevent such things from ever happening to any one we know.
3. They keep it in our consciousness, enabling us to be vigilant in keeping such acts from ever becoming acceptable and ultimately from ever happening again.
4. Public exposure will help us to find and prosecute the assailants and to find and to protect the assailed.

It is time to stop viewing nudity and sex as something to be ashamed of. The abused have not done anything wrong and have nothing to be ashamed of. Hiding the abuse condemns them to ongoing abuse while exposing the abuse empowers us all to stop it.

Help expose and thereby stop sexual abuse. Tell the people in your life of the harm it causes. Tell the people in your life that it is not acceptable: Not ever. Not under any circumstances. Not now and not tomorrow. Educate them. Inform them. Ask politicians how hiding the evidence of abuse protects children. Ask them why they are protecting the predators by hiding the evidence that could allow us to identify, locate, and prosecute them. Ask them why they are more concerned about the obscene pictures than they are about actual children.

Sexual abuse must stop. It ruins lives in persistent life-long ways. Please talk about these ideas. Please talk about the abuse that is happening around the world. Please talk about the lifetime of horror endured by the abused. Please talk with your friends, talk with your neighbors, talk with adults at your church and talk with your family. Make sure your husbands, brothers, uncles, sons and stepsons all know. Please do your part to help eradicate sexual abuse.

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## Epilog

This book is not about Debbie or Mark Robison; it's about what we have learned from our own experiences, from our friends and families, and from our research. We condemn the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and women and are not in any way "okay" with child pornography. We simply want society's first priority to be protecting children, rather than the obscenity of the acts of their abusers.

Believing that censorship and hiding of pictures of war crimes, beheadings, and acts of terror would be detrimental to society, does not make one an advocate of any of those acts. And no sane person wants to create more such images deliberately. Society must stop the *creation* of child pornography. As for the existing "child abuse materials", as the experts now call it, the adage remains true: if we forget the past, we are condemned to repeat it. Images are vivid. They lodge in our memory and consciousness like few other memories, helping us to be vigilant and remain alert to even the slightest possibility of repeating past horrors. Horrible images belong in museums of horrors, like the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum<sup>35</sup> or the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia<sup>36</sup>, to remind us of past evils, lest they return. To that end, we, with the help of our children, are developing the Museum Of Sexual Abuse<sup>37</sup>. For now, it will be a resource and sharing mechanism for the abused and their abusers, an educational tool for others, and a place for closure. Someday perhaps, when the world is ready, the horrors of child abuse will be found in this or some other museum, and no place else.

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<sup>35</sup> "The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is the United States' official memorial to the Holocaust. It is adjacent to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and provides for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history". Read more at:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:United\\_States\\_Holocaust\\_Memorial\\_Museum\\_interior.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:United_States_Holocaust_Memorial_Museum_interior.JPG)

<sup>36</sup> The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia is part of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, and uses "objects of intolerance to teach tolerance and promote social justice". Read more at: <http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/>.

<sup>37</sup> This website is under development and can be found at <http://museumofsexualabuse.org/>

## Appendix A. Resources and Further Reading

### Books

Bass, Ellen & Davis, Laura. *Courage To Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse*. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.

Davis, Laura. *The Courage To Heal Workbook: A Guide For Women And Men Survivor of Sexual Abuse*. New York: Harper Collins, 2008.

Bass, Ellen. *I Never Told Anyone: Writings by Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse*. New York: Harper & Row, 1991.

King, Zack & Kimberly. *I Said No! A Kid To Kid Guide To Keeping Private Parts Private*. Weaverville, Ca. Boulden Publishing, 2008.

Bromley, Nicole Braddock. *HUSH: Moving From Silence To Healing After Childhood Sexual Abuse*. Chicago, Illinois. Moody Publishers, 2007.

Jessie. *Please Tell! A Story About Sexual Abuse*. Center City, MN. Hazelden Publishing, 1991.

Hansen, Diane. *Those Are My Private Parts*. Redondo Beach, CA. Empowerment Productions, 2007.

Reeves, Claire. *Childhood: It Should Not Hurt*. Huntersville, NC. LTI Publishing, 2003.

### Websites

[www.stopitnow.org](http://www.stopitnow.org)

[www.againstsexualabuse.org](http://www.againstsexualabuse.org)

[www.jfcadvocacy.org](http://www.jfcadvocacy.org)

[www.mencanstoprape.org](http://www.mencanstoprape.org)

[www.darkness2light.com](http://www.darkness2light.com)

[www.2c.cdc.gov](http://www.2c.cdc.gov)

### Phone Numbers

National Hotline for reporting child abuse  
1-800-4A-Child (1-800-422-4453)

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## Back Cover

### Sexual Abuse: Are You For It or Against It?

Against it? Really? THEN SPEAK UP! As Winston Churchill said, “For evil to flourish, good men need only do nothing.” If you are truly against sexual abuse, which includes the growing problem of child pornography, then you simply must speak up. Awareness, acknowledgement, and action are the path to eradicating child pornography and sexual abuse. Your help is not just needed... it is essential.

To be aware of a problem and then to close our eyes to it, is to condone it. Failure to fight evil is to be complicit – to become part of the problem. To acknowledge a problem’s existence and then to sit idly by while it consumes those around us is to condone it. Only your actions can stop sexual abuse before it happens: Not legislation. Not prosecution. Not the good acts of others. Your action is the key.

Around the world, sexual abuse is proliferating. It is in our schools, in our churches, in our workplace, and in our homes. It will continue to grow until each of us, as individuals, put an end to it. For those directly impacted by sexual abuse and for those who have been spared, this book will be eye opening.

Sexual abuse destroys lives and is getting worse, literally. With each passing day, there is more of abuse, more exploitation of women of all ages, and, incredibly, day after day, the abuse is more abusive. Well-intentioned laws ignore the victims and protect the perpetrators. Cultural etiquette makes it taboo to discuss and learn about the problem. Yet, if we are to eradicate sexual abuse, we must be informed. We must speak up. We must act. Let everyone know that you are aware of the sexual abuse that surrounds us. Let everyone know that YOU are against it.