



# Stop It Now!

*Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children*

# NEWS

**It's Not Inevitable ...**



**It's preventable**

**March 2007**

## **Greetings!**

This month we send special thanks to the federal employees who pledged their support to Stop It Now! in the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign last fall. We have exceeded our 2005 totals, with many area campaigns yet to report. **THANK YOU!**

Please read on to find out more about our leadership, honored visitors, updated Warning Signs, guidebooks, and press. And, on the eve of Child Abuse Prevention Month, please [make an investment](#) in protecting children by supporting Stop It Now!

*Because child sexual abuse is not inevitable ... it's preventable.*



## Warning Signs - checklists updated

As part of the ongoing review and expansion of our online resources, Stop It Now! just posted updates to our [Warning Signs checklists](#).

Warning Signs is the most frequently visited page on our website.

We've included more behaviors that may be violations of personal boundaries that aren't specifically sexual. These "boundary violation" behaviors break down personal safeguards and can make children more vulnerable to being abused or to acting in harmful ways. Recognizing and acting to redirect these types of behaviors can prevent a child from being harmed - or causing harm to others.

[Read the Warning Signs](#)

## Nigerian Chief visits with Now!

Last month, the Stop It Now! was honored by a visit from one of the few women Chiefs in Nigeria, Mrs. Ugo Nnachi. Ugo is a tireless activist and leader for gender equity in her home state of Ibonyi - and the founder and director of DOVENET, a women's safety and empowerment organization in Ibonyi.



Ugo described the nature of child sexual exploitation in the Nigerian cultural context, and we discussed how Now!'s approach to violence prevention might apply. She is taking back a set of Stop It Now! resources, example of our advertising posters, and many new ideas. As reported in the October 2006 [Now! NEWS](#), international interest in Stop It Now! remains strong.

Ugo's visit to the Northeast was hosted by Men's Resources International (MRI), a new international organization that has been working with DOVENET to create [the Ebonyi Men's Resource Centre](#). Building on 20 years of promoting and supporting positive alternatives to stereotypical masculinity in the U.S., MRI is helping to organize men in diverse communities so that they can ally with women to end combat gender-based violence.

[Find out more about Men's Resources International](#)

### CONTENTS

Warning Signs - UPDATED  
Visit from a Nigerian Chief  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
Revised Guidebook - OUT  
SOON  
Now! Board Profiles

### Words of Hope



***"You are my first link to anything positive happening for my family.***

***I have talked to so many people, and this the first time I really feel that somebody understands and is really trying to help."***

***- Anonymous Helpline caller (used with permission)***

### Quick Links

Stories of Hope  
Common Questions  
About Stop It Now!  
Annual Report  
Newsletter Archive

**Make a Donation**



[Find out how else you can support this work.](#)



## PCA Features Child Sex Abuse Prevention

The March newsletter of [Prevent Child Abuse \(PCA\) America](#) was wholly devoted to the issue of sexual abuse prevention. Stop It Now! was invited to submit a feature article about our comprehensive approach to prevention.

[Stop It Now! Georgia](#) is a program of [PCA Georgia](#). We are grateful for the leadership of PCA America and its chapters in the movement to stop all forms of child abuse. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with PCA America and other organizations in the important work of making our families and communities safe for children.

[Read our article in the PCA newsletter](#)



### New Guidebook due out soon

An **updated and significantly expanded** version of Stop It Now!'s groundbreaking [Do Children Sexually Abuse Other Children](#) publication is in the final stage of development. It will be ready for publication within the next month. [Do Children](#) has been out of print for several months, but we believe the expanded version will be worth the wait.

According to studies, children under the age of 18 commit 30 - 50% of sexual abuse. This guidebook offers information on how to distinguish healthy and age-appropriate sexual development from sexually abusing behaviors. It offers guidance on how to talk to children about sexual abuse and what to do if a child discloses abuse. The public rarely recognizes the seriousness of these cases in which a child is abusing another child. [Do Children](#) reminds readers that there is **help available for both the child who was harmed and the child who did the harm.**

**The new text** will feature added material on the dynamics of sexually harmful behavior among youth; a section on child pornography; and more in-depth information about creating safe environments by identifying early signs of concerning behaviors and redirecting the behaviors before they become abusive.

Keep an eye on our homepage for the downloadable version, which should be available first.

[Download a free copy of the first edition](#)

**Stop It Now! [in the] NEWS**

[Stop It Now! Minnesota](#) Program Director, Yvonne Cournoyer, several recovering child sex offenders, and an adult survivor of child sexual abuse were featured in an interview by KMIT in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

[Read the story](#)

[Stop It Now! UK](#) Director, Tink Palmer, is quoted in a BBC News article this month on *The taboo of child-on-child abuse*. "People don't just start abusing when they turn 18." "It is something that develops over the years and is caused by a variety of reasons." [Read the article](#)

A Philadelphia TV station recently interviewed Thomas Haworth, Director of the Child and Adolescent Program at the [Joseph J. Peters Institute](#) (JJPI). JJPI is the sponsoring organization of [Stop It Now! Philadelphia](#). The accompanying online story featured our Warning Signs checklists, Helpline and links to our guides, and homepage. [Read the story](#)



# Stop It Now!<sup>®</sup>

*Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children*

---

## Introducing the Stop It Now! Board of Directors

It is high time that we introduced the leadership of Stop It Now!; members of our Board of Directors who work tirelessly and thoughtfully to keep the organization on course. We plan to feature interviews with some as well, to share more about what attracted them to Stop It Now! and the value they find in this level of commitment to its mission.

This month, we introduce our three newest board members who, like the rest of the board, bring a diverse range of experience and prevention wisdom to guide our efforts to protect children from sexual abuse.

**Susan Kirby**, Dr. PH, President of Kirby Marketing Solutions, has worked for more than 22 years to help private, nonprofit and government agencies and organizations integrate marketing thinking into their programs addressing a wide variety of health and social issues. She previously served as Director of Brand Development and Marketing Research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and has presented and written extensively about branding, social marketing and health communication.

**Ken Singer**, LICSW is executive director of NJ ATSA (Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers), and past president of MaleSurvivor - the National Organization on Male Sexual Victimization (NOMSV). He has specialized in treating male survivors and juvenile and adult sex abusers since 1978, and has served on numerous state and national task forces and advisory boards concerning sexual abuse prevention and treatment. In his private practice, he works primarily with male survivors and adult and juvenile sexual abusers in individual and group treatment.

**Larry Kressley** recently completed fifteen years as the executive director of the Public Welfare

Foundation, a privately endowed grant-making institution in Washington, D.C. He was a member of the staff of the Foundation since 1982 and served as a program officer, senior program officer and acting executive director before being appointed as executive director in 1992. Larry currently serves as vice-chair of the board of directors of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy.

## [Members of the Board of Directors](#)

## THANK YOU!

We know adults can and will take action to provide children the loving families and vibrant communities they need and deserve - with the proper resources, support and reassurance.

Thank you for your commitment to giving them more tools to do this. Thank you for your support.

- Everyone at Stop It Now!

## Contact Information

[info@stopitnow.org](mailto:info@stopitnow.org)

413.587.3500 TEL

413.587-3505 FAX

[HELPLINE \(1.888.PREVENT\)](tel:1888PREVENT)

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

Stop It Now! | 351 Pleasant Street, Suite B-319 | Northampton | MA | 01060