



# Stop It Now!<sup>®</sup>

*Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children*

February 2016

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## From the Director's Desk

### **Traveling through air and cyberspace to bring Circles of Safety around the globe**

The impact of bringing Stop It Now!'s message and resources to others feels profound to me lately. Two of our major prevention activities of late have taken place in two very different environments: on the beautiful island of Grenada and (electronically) with Minnesota early childhood care and education professionals. As I get to deliver our training series, Circles of Safety, and our one-of-a-kind confidential and free Helpline, I am struck by the appreciation for support and tools to keep children safe from sexual abuse. I am also aware of the severe lack of resources and information offered to adults in educational and care roles with children.

In Grenada, Stop It Now!, through our collaborative work with Sweet Water Foundation, has now twice facilitated Circles of Safety for Youth Serving Environments. We have also just completed training Sweetwater's first group of phone counselors for Grenada's own new Helpline for anyone with a concern about sexual abuse. The participants in these trainings have included ministry representatives, college students, and school counselors.

And closer to home, Stop It Now! has been working through an e-learning process to train professional child care and education instructors in Minnesota. Child Care Aware Minnesota sponsored and hosted this training via their e-classroom setting. After participating in the training, instructors are now prepared to bring Circles of Safety:

Understanding and Responding to Children's Sexual Behaviors to community based day care providers. Next, instructors will receive training in Circles of Safety: Understanding and Responding to Adult Behavior and Creating Safe Environments. The training is approved by the Minnesota Center for Professional Development and will also be available through Child Care Aware Minnesota's online self-learning platform.

While the environments, cultures and need differ between Grenada and Minnesota, what stands out are the similarities. I've noticed these two themes threaded through each training experience:

- Hope and empowerment grows through education of what can be done to keep children safe;
- Opportunities for prevention abound - from buses to schools - to policies and procedures - to conversations and beyond.

***[Click here to continue reading Jenny's letter...](#)***

*You can participate in creating this hope. Could your group or organization improve by a greater understanding of healthy childhood sexual development, warning signs of problems, and practical steps to provide safe environments for children? Stop It Now! is currently scheduling Circle of Safety trainings for 2016. **Contact us** to start this transformation in your group.*



## What Our Training Participants Have to Say



Circles of Safety training participants in Grenada

***"Knowing now that if boundaries, rules and a safety plan are in place, sexual abuse can be prevented."***

***"Loved the focus on adult responsibility and prevention. Also appreciated that although the info was difficult and statistics daunting, there was hope and grace. It wasn't about fear and hate. Helping early care professionals know and understand healthy sexual development and being comfortable discussing it is really a key to it all."***



## Survey Results

In our last newsletter, we asked you - our readers - to tell us a bit about your connection to Stop It Now!, how you use our resources, and what you think Stop It Now! brings to the vision of keeping children safe from sexual harm. Here are a few of your responses:

***A nuanced approach that helps parents grapple with how to have actual conversations with people they care about.***

***Contemporary and transparent approach to the prevention of sexual abuse.***

***A strong focus on adult responsibility including providing practical***

*information on recognizing and responding to concerning behaviors so you can intervene.*

*As invaluable insight to the subtle clues that individuals can recognize to identify ongoing sexual abuse as well as to prevent potential abuse.*

*Prevention in a world that is usually focused on treatment.*

These words mean the world to us; we see how a focus on prevention that is calm, informative and supportive can help adults protect children. We also asked what you'd like to see added to Stop It Now!'s menu of prevention resources. And we have some exciting news:

- 65% requested on-demand webinars - **Read below to find out how we are making this happen!**
- 30% requested a chat feature for the Helpline - **Starting in April, we will be offering this new service as part of our free, confidential Helpline! Stay tuned for the official announcement soon.**

So thank you all so much! We are so grateful to everyone who took the time to provide us with this valuable feedback.



## New Partnership Will Bring On-Demand Training

Thanks to a new partnership with the Global Institute of Forensic Research, Stop It Now! will have some exciting news shortly about the availability of our often requested trainings. The Global Institute of Forensic Research (GIFR) specializes in providing cutting-edge training and research resources to mental health, correctional, and legal professionals working with the perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

If you are interested in certified training in the use of child sexual abuse risk assessment and management approved for Continuing Education Credit, visit their website: [www.gifrinc.com](http://www.gifrinc.com)



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## Stay Informed

February is Dating Violence Prevention Month. A national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen and 20-something relationships and promote programs that prevent it. For more information, visit **Love is Respect**.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Abuse Prevention Month. **Prevent Connect's** announced the theme for Sexual Assault Awareness in 2016 is "Prevention is Possible" and for the National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the theme is "Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect: Educate. Guide. Protect." April is a great time to get involved in children's safety and protection!



# Stop It Now! Resources

New advice columns are posted monthly. Read what other adults are asking about to protect children from sexual abuse.

- **My child's school didn't notify me of an incident, what can I do to make sure she's safe?**
- **Should I report abuse that occurred 10 years ago in China?**



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