ICTs and Violence Against Children: Minimising Risks And Releasing Potential

Implementation and enforcement: obstacles, challenges and advances
Who are we?

The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) is the leading global service agency working to protect the world’s children from sexual abuse, exploitation, and abduction.
Status of Legislation Globally

Child Pornography: Model Legislation & Global Review

- A review of national legislation in 196 countries of existing legislation against child pornography. Results:
  - Only 11 countries have legislation which fulfill all 5 criteria;
  - 53 countries have no legislation at all;
  - Only 69 countries have sufficient legislation.

- Movement in right direction: 100 countries have passed new law or improved existing law since 2006.
Obstacles: Low Prosecutions & Convictions Rates

- Despite advances, implementation of the existing child pornography laws are still low:
  - Lack of supporting legislation (data retention policies, etc.)
  - Small number of specialized police departments;
  - High turnover in specialized police departments and prosecutors’ offices;
  - Little coordination between police officers investigation and prosecutor’s offices;
Obstacles: Low Prosecutions & Convictions Rates

Continued:

- Still misperception of CP as a minor offence or as a victimless crime;
- Low awareness of ICT-related issues and existing legislation by some institutions;
- Weak data collection and weak data analysis due to poor data breakdown or gathering;
- Low budget allocation for child protection institutions, and for acquiring software, capacity building, etc.
ICMEC Response: Law Enforcement Training

Computer-Facilitated Crimes Against Children

- Trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and technical analysts
  - 69 trainings since 2003;
  - 5,598 participants trained;
  - 121 countries represented;
Challenge: HighVolumes of Materials to investigate

- Advances on investigative coalitions (VGT, IIITF, INTERPOL Task forces, Police Attachés Coordination…), but the high volumes of new images being produced daily are higher than investigative capacity:
  - Little attention to prevention efforts (most work on prevention done by NGOs)
  - Victim identification is a time consuming task;
Challenge: High Volumes of Materials to investigate

- Continued:
  - Lack of inter-institutional agreements (or of awareness for support to criminal investigations);
  - Investigations often times require international coordination (different definitions, legislation, etc.) and access to evidence;
  - Police officers are not equipped with de-confliction tools and databases that allow for quick coordination.
ICMEC’s Response: Law Enforcement Tools

Video
Fingerprinting

PhotoDNA™

PROJECT VIC

Microsoft

friend
Media Technology Systems

NetClean

MDS

PDNA

SHA-1
Challenge: Permanent Evolving Technologies

- Despite advances, the expertise of offenders is enhanced by the rapid advances in Internet technology, sometimes faster than legislation or LEA:

  - **Commercial websites ($9,90)**
    - *Initiative: FCACP*

  - **Peer to Peer Networks**
    - *Initiative: FCACP, VGT, Technology Coalition, etc*

  - **Online Classified ads for CSEC & TIP**
    - *Initiative: ICMEC Campaign on online TIP*

  - **DarkNet, TOR & Shadow economy (Bitcoins)**
    - *Initiative: ICMEC’s Digital Economy Task Force*
Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography

- Established in U.S. in 2006 by NCMEC and ICMEC
- Advisory role in European Financial Coalition
- Developing an Asia-Pacific FCACP since 2009
- A powerful alliance of financial and Internet companies working voluntarily to address commercial child pornography

One Goal:
Disrupt the Economics of the Child Pornography Business
Digital Economy

- Spearheading a comprehensive effort to address the abuse of payment systems and digital currencies
- Addressing the emergence of “cyber-lockers” by developing best practices
- Co-hosted Event with Thomson Reuters in June 2013 - *The Virtual Economy: Potential, Perplexities and Promises*
- Ernie Allen testified before Senate Hearing in November 2013 regarding digital currency
The Digital Economy Task Force published the first Policy Recommendations in March 2014
Questions?

Thanks!

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