**ISPCAN**

**The International Society for the Prevention of**

**Child Abuse and neglect**

**Children Matter:**

Every year **500 million to 1.5 billion children** around the world are affected by some form of violence. Child abuse, neglect and other forms of violence have a lifelong impact on children’s physical, emotional and social development. Beyond the harm caused to children, they also undermine families and communities **due to the long term negative consequences** on physical and mental health, education, employment, and the social environment.

Millions more children remain unprotected from abuse and neglect. ISPCAN is committed to eradicating violence against children worldwide by increasing public awareness of all forms of violence against children, developing activities to prevent such violence, and promoting the rights of children in all regions of the world.

ISPCAN’s over 1000 members invite you to join forces around the world to protect children in need: their bodies, minds, hearts and rights.

**Who We Are:**

***ISPCAN is the only membership association of its kind, facilitating a worldwide collaboration of committed professionals from many disciplines to work toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect and exploitation globally because children matter.***

ISPCAN unites over 1000 Child Abuse and Neglect professionals from more than 100 countries to create a diverse and the multi-disciplinary community from the fields of psychiatry, psychology, medicine, nursing, social work, education, legal, law enforcement, faith communities and government. ISPCAN reaches over 5000 professionals each year dedicated to preventing child abuse, neglect and exploitation.

ISPCAN’s vision is that all children will live and grow in nurturing, rights-respecting environments, free from abuse, neglect and other forms of violence

**Our Mission:**

ISPCAN’s mission is to strengthen the work of individuals and organizations to prevent abuse, neglect and other forms of violence against children and to promote the wellbeing of children. ISPCAN is dedicated to preventing cruelty to children in every nation, in every form: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, homeless children, child fatalities, child prostitution, and children of war, emotional abuse, and child labor.

By developing activities to prevent such violence, and promoting the rights of children in all regions of the world since 1977, ISPCAN has made a significant impact in the area of child welfare and continues to demonstrate success and commitment in preventing violence against children. We have proven excellence in disseminating academic and clinical research to those in positions to enhance practice and improve policy through publications, convening congresses, organizing culturally appropriate professional training events and participating in world-wide activities to increase the learning community around prevention and treatment strategies.

Violence against children takes many forms, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect and deprivation. Violence occurs in many settings; home, school, community and over the Internet. Similarly, a wide range of perpetrators commit violence against children, such as family members, intimate partners, teachers, neighbors, strangers and other children. Such violence not only inflicts harm, pain and humiliation on children; it also kills. All children have the right to protection from violence.

**Our Goal:**

ISPCAN's goal is to prevent cruelty to children in every nation, in every form including physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, malnourishment and neglect, homeless children, child prostitution and trafficking, children of war and forced migration and child labor. ISPCAN is committed to increasing public awareness of violence against children, developing prevention strategies, and promoting the rights of children in alignment with the UN’s Convention of Rights of the Child. For over 40 years ISPCAN has managed projects largely in countries where lack of resources, cultural resistance or political unrest has prevented the establishment of critical professional skills, protection structures and data collection.

Major programs include convening international events, coordinating international multi-year skill building and training programs; consulting on data collection, position papers and resolutions; publishing topical journals and reports; and providing and managing interactive Web-based services for professionals protecting children including webinars, world renowned data collection tools, expert trainers and the most current and actionable research.

**Our Strategic Objectives:**

**ISPCAN’s Strategic Objections include:**

**1. Expand ISPCAN’s global reach by broadening, diversifying and sustaining the membership network and build strategic partnerships across all cultures and in every discipline.**

**2. Develop and deliver training programs and resources as well as generate and disseminate research and best practices in the critical areas of child welfare in every region of the world.**

**3. Use ISPCAN’s expertise to raise awareness and contribute to selected advocacy initiatives to be an agent of change worldwide and to leave a strong and sustainable Legacy in every region of the world to ensure that children are free from abuse and neglect.**

**Our Process:**

ISPCAN’s key goal is to work collaboratively with governments, NGOs and ISPCAN members to increase their capacity to use evidence based approaches to prevent child abuse and neglect (CAN), and to provide therapeutic services for children who have been abused, neglected or exploited. Multi-disciplinary approaches are developed and adapted to be culturally and linguistically appropriate for the children and families served with. Implementation takes full account of the capacity of voluntary and paid staff to provide services within the resources available in their communities.

ISPCAN increases the capacity of government ministers, officials and key decision makers to develop legislation and sustainable child protection policies, drawing on the most up to date evidence based research findings, statistics and other types of data on the prevalence and incidence of all forms of abuse and neglect in national populations. ISPCAN assists decision makers in utilizing the latest data, research results and statistics on the prevalence and impact of all forms of abuse and neglect in national populations.

**Our Resources:**

The ISPCAN biennial publications of World Perspectives on Child Abuse, articles in ISPCAN’s Child Abuse & Neglect: the International Journal and the “Global Study on Violence Against Children” confirm the urgency of developing and disseminating knowledge and skills relating to appropriate and evidence based prevention and management of child abuse, neglect and exploitation. These publications, and particularly the “Global Study on Violence Against Children”, clearly documents the global crisis of child abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Global Study notes that violence against children occurs in every country, every region, and every context in which children live, play, learn and work, including the family, educational institutions, communities, and even places of care for children.

Multi-disciplinary training resources are made available through webinars, e-learning and other innovative learning platforms. This will result in these materials being more widely available to those working to prevent, manage and treat victims of child abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**Our Impact:**

ISPCAN’s work speaks directly to specific and intentional focus on the following global goals:

* **Strengthen national and local commitment and action:** ISPCAN works with both government and civil society representatives to alert them to child protection issues in their regions.
* **Prohibit all violence against children:** ISPCAN provides the opportunity for international exchange on issues of law, policy and practice that contributes to the elimination of all forms of violence against children
* **Global focus on issues impacting children**: ISPCAN is increasingly involved in international events which bring together experts to debate and disseminate evidence based theory and practice on the prevention of child abuse, neglect and exploitation.
* **Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children:** The core of ISPCAN’s work, historically and in the present and future, focuses on knowledge and skills building in the field of child abuse, neglect and exploitation across all disciplines. ISPCAN promotes and supports professionals from different disciplines to work together to improve outcomes for children.
* **Ensure participation of children:** ISPCAN considers the participation of children and youth to be essential to knowledge and skills building, and has committed actively to their participation in all its congresses and conferences over the past 15 years.
* **Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research:** ISPCAN recognizes the urgent need to develop child protection systems which are built on solid information with regard to identified needs of children, and the prevalence and incidence of maltreatment in and across countries. The ISPCAN Data Collection Working Group, the development of the ICAST questionnaires, together with ongoing consultation on their use in different countries and cultural contexts, and the biennial publication of World Perspectives on Child Abuse all contribute to this goal.
* **Strengthen international commitment:** ISPCAN’s international membership and outreach in support of governments in their efforts to develop sustainable and effective child protection systems, as well as providing a forum for international exchange through international events and publications, speaks to its work on this goal.
* **Ensure collaboration:** ISPCAN’s work is particularly relevant in providing spaces for consultation, knowledge sharing and strategic thinking, cutting across inter-country boundaries that at times inhibit such collective and cooperative thinking and action.
* **Measured Impact:** Children, from all countries where ISPCAN is involved, have improved outcomes because child protection professionals respond to the prevention and management of abuse and neglect with improved knowledge and skills.

Each year we develop programs and projects to achieve these overarching objectives. We host conferences, develop special guidance documents, develop data tools and other educational resources to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

**Our LEGACY: *Our goal is to build a legacy of child protection in every community around the globe.***

ISPCAN was established to support individuals and organizations working to protect children from abuse and neglect worldwide. It is the only international membership organization that is inclusive of all professionals working in the field of child protection and therefore promotes inter-disciplinary cooperation and exchange of evidence based information ISPCAN is a society of multidisciplinary professionals committed to science, research, understanding best practices and sharing this knowledge globally through our conferences. In every event, we require a local association or partner who works in the field of child abuse and neglect to help us plan the scientific content of the program, and we cater the topics to also address special regional needs.

**A core principle of our work is to leave a community or region stronger and able to address these issues within their countries and develop a better safety net for children. We raise the topic, raise the awareness, and raise the knowledge in the communities that host our events in order to slowly make a global impact**.

The purpose of the ISPCAN Legacy is to continue to build a network of professional with the most impactful tools, resources and knowledge to prevent child abuse and neglect in the region long after the conclusion of an ISPCAN conference. The ISPCAN Legacy includes the cultivation of ongoing partnerships in the region and to bring together all the disciplines (law enforcement, doctors, social workers, lawyers, case workers, etc.) that work together more effectively when interwoven to create a stronger system of care in the community. Working in many languages, across cultures, utilizing emerging technology and remaining flexible, ISPCAN helps create new policy and solutions for protecting children. Some unique ways ISPCAN leaves a legacy through our conference programs:

• Youth Forums bring together youth 16-25 years of age on a topic of their choosing that is a relevant concern in this age group around vulnerability, abuse and neglect. The group of local youth also connect virtually with a global ISPCAN youth council to enhance the discussion and sharing of ideas. ISPCAN greatly values youth participation in our work.

• Working Group on Child Death Review assesses the public health response and system in place to examine unexpected child death to uncover abuse and neglect in order to establish better prevention triggers within a country’s child protection system.

• Working Group on Child Maltreatment Data Collection reviews the method of collection of child maltreatment data and the reporting system in place for a country. Discussion and research results are used to establish and strengthen intervention, treatment and prevention.

• Declaration for the Conference is created at the conclusion of the event in order to capture the main points. ISPCAN leaders, regional leaders and local dignitaries work together to provide political will to drive policy change, influence government and civil decision makers and raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention.

The valuable outcomes from these initiatives are provided to the hosting region at no cost. This information helps to create/augment regional child maltreatment and death data collection which forms the foundation critical to successful intervention, critical care and prevention in your region. ISPCAN has a commitment to support developing country delegates and therefore the scholarship funding and regional support is critical for us to subsidize costs.

Our conferences and the media coverage that is encouraged helps to bring not only the professionals working in this field to attend a global event with the experts, but it also brings all layers of the community together – parents, teachers, youth, law enforcement, first responders, counselors, and students to name a few. Raising the topic of child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect out of the darkness to remove the shame, increase awareness and prevention in the general community is a secondary priceless benefit. Crimes against children can be impacted.

**THE ISPCAN LEGACY – PARTNER TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN**

During ISPCAN scientific congresses and conferences, ISPCAN invites professionals and researchers globally to collaborate in an active community of learning, in many languages and with the feedback from many cultures, thus improving the chances of appropriation and the opportunities for parenthood of programs for children across cultures.

ISPCAN is aware that emergent challenges and plights on children become overwhelming in many areas of the world; ISPCAN is also aware that professionals have never been more connected globally. Because of this, we address child protection in flexible ways and with adaptive expertise. We thank our funders and our partners for all they do, entrusting us to prevent and treat child abuse with the highest standards and in all circumstances, and to protect all children more efficiently, everywhere.

ISPCAN is dedicated to protecting children and supporting those working to prevent child abuse and neglect in your region long after the conclusion of an ISPCAN Global Congress or Regional Conference. Every ISPCAN Global Congress or Regional Conference is designed to leave a legacy of support to strengthen the safety net for the children of your region. ISPCAN is dedicated to create ongoing partnerships and initiatives to support nonprofit organizations, ministries, foundations, universities, institutions and associations within your business, scientific and educational communities. ISPCAN will provide on-going support for Child Abuse and Neglect Professionals to protect your Nation’s children through:

* **Country Partner Programs**

ISPCAN launched a Country Partners Program, establishing affiliations with national child abuse and neglect prevention organizations around the world. The collaboration aims to further the common mission, goals and programs of ISPCAN and its Partners.

The Country Partners program seeks out national, multidisciplinary organizations working in child abuse and neglect (CAN) prevention, with a special focus on groups in developing countries. We believe that effective and sustainable CAN prevention is achieved through education and professional cooperation. By sharing experiences, research, and resources, ISPCAN hopes to augment individual, regional, and national efforts to end child maltreatment

* **Regional Resource Centers**

Over the years, ISPCAN has responded to the needs expressed by its regional partners with the goal of developing and disseminating culturally appropriate/multilingual training materials and curricula. ISPCAN has established regional resource centers in four major regions of the world to help us bring additional bandwidth and to the regional needs and make information more accessible to our members in these areas.

We at ISPCAN work across the globe and have developed 4 regional resource centers (India, Saudi Arabia, Argentina and South Africa) so far to help bring together culturally appropriate resources in regional languages for practitioners working in the field of child abuse prevention. We try to mindfully support professionals in developing country regions without access and resources.

**Join us:**

As an ISPCAN Sponsor, you will deeply engage with your worldwide community while supporting an amazing cause. Your sponsorship provides ISPCAN members with the tools and resources necessary to prevent, respond to, and deliver life-saving services that victims of child abuse and neglect and their families need so that they may begin the process of healing their minds, bodies and hearts.

**ISPCAN believes that when you help heal a child, that you have taken a step to heal our world.**

**If not us …..Who?**

**If not now …… When?**