



Child sexual abuse is a silent epidemic throughout the world, creating social havoc. It can be prevented and it can be treated with a conscious and sustained effort. Stop the Silence provides that effort.

**Summary Stop the Silence® and MYRIVR: Toward A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking Training, Prevention, Mitigation, and Care Program in New Zealand**  
2018-2020

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:** Estimates of child sexual abuse (CSA), including trafficking, around the world are staggering. “Studies indicate that... around 20 percent of girls and 5 to 10 percent of boys experience sexual abuse. There are substantial consequences not only for the affected persons, but also for society as a whole, and these can no longer be ignored.” (Summary report workshop on international epidemiological studies XIXth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect September 2012, p.2.) The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that approximately 1 in 4 girls and [at least, emphasis ours] 1 in 6 boys and are sexually abused before the age of 18 in the U.S. alone (DOJ/NSOPW, retrieved April 2018), translating to more than 42 million adult survivors in the U.S. (for example) and many, many more millions worldwide, creating havoc for children, adults, and societies. Some researchers and advocates put the numbers affected much higher. An international survey done in New Zealand found that 1 in 4 New Zealand girls is sexually abused before the age of 15, the highest rate of any country examined ([www.newzealandchildabuse.com](http://www.newzealandchildabuse.com)). Additionally, an estimated 24.9 million victims in the world are trapped in modern-day slavery. Of these, 16 million (64%) were exploited for labor, 4.8 million (19%) were sexually exploited, and 4.1 million (17%) were exploited in state-imposed forced labor.

**The orientation of this proposal is guided by the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 2017 Responding to Children and Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused Clinical Guidelines.** Findings from the 2017 World Health Organization’s Clinical Guideline for Responding to Children and Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused states that sexual abuse, including sexual assault or rape, of children and adolescents is a major global public health problem [emphasis ours], a violation of human rights, and has many health consequences in the short and long term.” (p.1) Medical authorities underlined five areas of focus that need attention: 1) timely care working with communities; 2) raising awareness of health-care providers about CSA/trafficking and its health consequences and how to recognize it; 3) improving the response towards those children and adolescents who seek services; 4) improving coordination and timely referrals between other services or authorities where children and adolescents who are sexually abused are identified or taken to, and 5) health services. (p.8) As such, we are working to enable community members and service providers to prevent CSA/trafficking and provide quality care for children, adolescents, and adults who have or may have been subjected to sexual abuse. Thus, we further aim, in collaboration with Trust MYRIVR in New Zealand and others, to prevent mitigate the negative health consequences of CSA/trafficking and improve children’s, adolescents’, and adults’ well-being.

**CONCEPT PREVIEW:** We address the development and implementation of an initial two-year, five-phase (Design through Implementation and Evaluation) of the “Stop the Silence® Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse/Trafficking Training, Prevention, Mitigation, and Care Model (Model), otherwise known as Speak-Up-Stop the Silence®. The focus of the work follows on the work done by Stop the Silence®: Stop Child Sexual Abuse, Inc. (<https://stopthesilence.org>) in the U.S. and elsewhere for 20 years and then brought together into a comprehensive model with programming in collaboration with the government of Cyprus from 2014-2017. Stop the Silence® focused on advocacy, education; training, and policy development; advised numerous organizations and the Cypriot government and NGOs on policy, program and service focus and components; and carried out trainings for administrators, teachers, school psychologists and counselors, and members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). While Cyprus is a small nation, it has, because of its size, provided an ideal place to carry out and test a comprehensive prevention, treatment, and mitigation model. The focus is now worldwide.

The vision and framework for the Model reflects and promotes a social movement through a widening audience of community members and trained professionals with the goal of reaching key policymakers, stakeholders, service providers (e.g., educators, police, social service workers) and societal members, to ultimately impact members of society overall and the outcomes and impact of CSA. The framework focuses on the planned expansion of the targeted “spheres of influence” that directly impact children’s well-being. In partnership with Trust MYRIVR (<https://www.trustmyrivr.co.nz/>) in New Zealand, then elsewhere, we are expanding trainings and related programming and evaluating the outcomes of the Stop the Silence® community-wide onsite and online trainings and related agendas to improve child and adolescent, as well as, ultimately, adult and societal, health and well-being, including the address of the prevention of long-term disability and improved functioning.

Trust MYRIVR identifies the relevant key domestic stakeholders in New Zealand and provides access to the operational/ delivery arm of this joint initiative by: 1) Identifying the relevant provider to deliver Child Sexual Abuse Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Training, Prevention, Mitigation, and Care in New Zealand and 2) Providing the Trust MYRIVR App tool as a platform for technological connection to communities by capturing the community voice(s) of and feedback from local societal members via an app. The feedback gathered provides information to service providers about the changes needed in health/social service-delivery thinking and delivery. The capturing of data from communities enables real-time visibility of services to assist existing programs with which clients and staff are engaged and capture the interactive progress and outcomes from start to finish. The data captured will be analyzed by Trust MYRIVR partners at Massey University, which will also provide predictive modelling.

**THE PARTNERS:** Stop the Silence®: Stop Child Sexual Abuse, Inc. (Stop the Silence®, <https://stopthesilence.org>), with award-winning management and comprehensive, evidence-based, innovative, and creative CSA/trafficking prevention and mitigation programming spanning two decades, is based just outside of Washington, D.C. in the U.S., and brings a focus on CSA/trafficking prevention, treatment, and mitigation through strategy development and awareness, education, and training programming. Stop the Silence® will work Trust MYRIVR (<https://www.trustmyrivr.co.nz/>), an organization in New Zealand focused on the enhanced health of indigenous and all populations, and the developer of an award-winning, innovative tool that is the country’s largest enabler of community services coordination. Use of this tool allows for identifying and tracking the possible onset of abuse as well as coordinating the agencies that work to mitigate the response of those at-risk and those victimized. Trust MYRIVR simplifies their visibility and accessibility to make it easier for communities to reach out for help. Trust MYRIVR brings in the Knowledge Exchange Hub (KEH) of Massey University. KEH is a center for world-class, curiosity-driven research in social citizenship and big data analytics.

**Primary Project Team:** Pamela Pine, PhD, Founder and CEO, Stop the Silence®; Joann Stevelos, Public Health and Evaluation Specialist, Stop the Silence®; Akerei Maresala-Thomson, Co-Founder and CEO, Trust MYRIVR; Elia Chan, Co-Founder and Director/ Project Manager, Trust MYRIVR, which brings in the Knowledge Exchange Hub of Massey University. The collaborative partnership between Stop the Silence® and Trust MYRIVR / Knowledge Exchange Hub of Massey University will be able to make a fundamental change in the current circumstances regarding CSA in New Zealand.



**Stop the Silence® Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Training, Prevention, Mitigation, and Care Model:**  
Invest-Advocate-Engage-Train-Reduce Well-being,  
Including the address of the prevention Negative Health Outcomes