



## Stop the Silence – A Focus on Healing

CSA is not one group's problem; by expert accounts it is a silent pandemic throughout the United States and the world, creating havoc – for the affected children, the adult survivors, and the society. It can be prevented and treated with a conscious and sustained effort.

**Stop the Silence helps provide that effort.**

**Get involved. Support the work that we do. Contact us today to find out how to help.**

**The Mission of Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.** (Stop the Silence) is to expose and stop child sexual (CSA) abuse and help survivors heal worldwide. **Our overarching Goals** are to 1) promote CSA awareness, prevention, and healing; 2) stop child sexual abuse and related forms of violence; and 3) celebrate the lives of those healed.

Healing from child sexual abuse takes courage and support. Stop the Silence provides non-therapeutic, supportive groups that assist survivors' empowerment.

### Stop the Silence - Survivor Empowerment Groups

We help survivors transform from being victims of the past to being strong, creative, confident individuals through ongoing group meetings. We provide a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment dedicated to each person's growth and movement beyond victimhood. Contact us to find out if there is a Survivor Empowerment Group in your community or to find out how to start one. Healing starts the moment you are ready.

For the Young Survivor, **Stop the Silence** provides web-based information and referrals to trusted therapists.



P.O. Box 127 Glenn Dale, MD 20769 301.464.4791 [www.StopCSA.org](http://www.StopCSA.org) [Info@StopCSA.org](mailto:Info@StopCSA.org)

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## Stop the Silence – A Focus on Prevention

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Prevention is a key to ending child sexual abuse. Stop the Silence uses evidence-based trainings that increase knowledge and understanding in order to change the behavior of participants. The objectives of our trainings and presentations are to:

- Increase knowledge and understanding about what child sexual abuse is and what it does
- Increase knowledge about grooming and other techniques used to lure children
- Prepare adults on how to talk with children about CSA
- Increase comfort levels with easy-to-use prevention tools and techniques
- Prepare participants on how to react if CSA is disclosed
- Educate participants on how to report a case of suspected or known CSA
- Reduce victim and societal impact

### Services Provided:

- Adult trainings customized for each organization trained
- Children's education: Ages 5-18, with age-appropriate information/groups
- Child sexual abuse awareness, prevention, and healing presentations
- Service provider trainings

### Examples of organizations served:

- |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ Youth service organizations | ■ Policy makers and stakeholders |
| ■ Parent associations         | ■ Schools: public and private    |
| ■ Child care facilities       | ■ Faith-based organizations      |
| ■ Judges                      | ■ First responders               |



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Kerry Drew Photography



## Stop the Silence – A Focus on Awareness

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**Above:** A scene from the play, *To Kill A Kelpie* by Matthew McVarish, about the unfolding and sharing of a secret between two brothers that has never been spoken of before. It is one of the many proven ways used by Stop the Silence to advance awareness, prevention, and healing.

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Since 2002, Stop the Silence has conducted media campaigns and sponsored advocacy events to increase awareness among stakeholders and various population groups. A population must be aware and energized if it is to engage in prevention and healing practices, as we have learned from the movements against breast cancer and HIV/AIDS. The focus on awareness lays the groundwork for, overlaps with, and supports the prevention and healing aspects of our programming. Below are some examples of the types of media campaigns and other advocacy efforts we have conducted:

- Media advocacy in the U.S. and throughout the world through the use of our PSAs and other mass media products.
- The annual (since 2004) Race (and Walk) to Stop the Silence is held in Washington, D.C. and in collaboration with groups elsewhere. Numerous TV, radio, and Web-based media cover the race and provide information about CSA.
- Stop the Silence–Talk Around the Clock, a Web-based, real-time sharing, global advocacy, education, and information program, was designed and produced in collaboration with the Durbin Institute of Technology (South Africa), a Canadian technology firm, and others.
- Our Art as Advocacy program stretches across all three areas of our work, affecting awareness, prevention, and healing. Stop the Silence uses plays, film, and still art to inspire, educate, and catalyze action.



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# Stop the Silence – Mission and Brief History

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In 2000, Dr. Pamela Pine, an international health professional based in the U.S. on the East Coast, became educated about child sexual abuse (CSA) and impassioned with the idea that new and creative approaches were needed to increase societal awareness about CSA, which affects one in three girls and one in six boys in the U.S. and millions across the globe. In 2002, she began **Stop the Silence** as a coalition of multi-ethnic groups that came together to comprehensively address CSA locally, nationally, and internationally. That same year, a **Stop the Silence** partnership received a large grant to address the needs of Latino communities in Santa Cruz, CA, and a West Coast presence began.

In 2003, the budding organization enlisted the assistance of the Communications Department at the University of Maryland to help carry out attitudinal research in the Washington, D.C. area. One of the research questions posed was: How do you raise awareness about an issue that no one wants to talk about? The Race to Stop the Silence was one answer to that question, and was born with the assistance of many, including Sharon Simone, internationally recognized CSA survivor, activist, and educator. Since 2004, the Race has been an annual event in Washington, D.C. The Race attracted over 1,200 people in 2011 and grows larger each year. It involves high profile individuals like the Surgeon General of the United States; gets sponsorship support from important corporate and foundation sponsors like Ms. Foundation for Women, the Calvert Group, and CocaCola; garners substantial English and Spanish media in the U.S. and globally; provides community education; and raises funds for local and other programming.

A Department of Health and Human Services grant in 2004 supported further development of an East Coast program. The project introduced a safety and peace platform, and enlisted individuals such as Riane Eisler, activist and best-selling author and Nantombi Naomi Tutu, human rights advocate and daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu, to assist in building connections between CSA and other forms of violence. That year, too, international **Stop the Silence** programming began to gather steam when staff traveled to Zambia to train police.

**Stop the Silence** was incorporated in 2004 so that the work begun could be further cultivated. The organization continues to work with numerous individuals, community-based and faith-based organizations, and governments in the U.S. and other countries to prevent and treat CSA and has received substantial support from national and local governments, major foundations, and the corporate world.

## Our current primary and complementary endeavors are:

- Media and other advocacy – grants from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and others allow **Stop the Silence** to distribute and play our TV/radio and Web-based public service announcement (PSAs) in the U.S. and elsewhere. The Race to Stop the Silence ([www.stopcsa.org/race](http://www.stopcsa.org/race)) gets regular media exposure.
- Training – Training programs tailored to specific audiences have been shown to increase knowledge and understanding of CSA, preparing the way to action. For example, DOJ and the Ford Foundation supported a critical and acclaimed training for judges.
- Community education and outreach – **Stop the Silence** provides information and prevention tools to schools, social service groups, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, individual survivor groups, and many others through grassroots and other educators and facilitators.



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