



Child sexual abuse can be prevented and treated with a conscious, sustained effort.  
Stop the Silence provides that effort.

## **Stop the Silence: Art as Advocacy Academic- and Community-Based CSA Prevention/Mitigation Program**

Stop the Silence developed and uses an Art as Advocacy Program with film, theatre, music, and books to introduce and forward a movement to prevent and mitigate child sexual abuse (CSA) through localized activities (“think global, act local”). The program has been vetted and evaluated in a number of venues over the past few years and has been shown to greatly increase awareness, knowledge, and intent to act.

Stop the Silence uses plays, film, books, and more to raise awareness, increase knowledge, and catalyze behavior change. The use of plays and the after-show presentations/discussions have been tested and shown to do just this by tapping into the audience’s emotional openness after the play or film. The Art as Advocacy program has been provided in the UK and in the U.S. and elsewhere during an evaluative phase when Stop the Silence took the Scottish-born play *To Kill A Kelpie*, written by Matthew McVarish, on tour in 2011 and then to Off-Broadway in 2012 (local theatre groups have performed and provided them elsewhere). A film was made of *Kelpie* directed by Edward M. Smith (73 minutes running time) and screened and the after-show provided directly afterwards and evaluated in the fall of 2012 at Cornell, Emory, Indiana, and George Washington Universities. We also use the film *Lost Sparrow* by Chris Billing, which helps underscore the types of cultural divides that can be seen on this subject, as well as *Devil in the Doorway* by Chase Tarca and other art to open hearts and minds. We often bring a survivor speaker and always have a local expert panel to address audience immediate and later issues and needs.

The full Stop the Silence Art as Advocacy program “package” involves the establishment of on-going academic- and community-based programming through formal university- or college-based clubs that are encouraged through the use of the “hook” of a screening of a relevant film and the after-show presentation and discussion designed by Pamela Pine, PhD, MPH, Founder and CEO of Stop the Silence. Then, with and through outreach to universities and local non-profit and other groups, we raise awareness about CSA and its relation to other interpersonal violence, and educate in the vicinity of each showing. We collaborate with others for the training of service providers in the community surrounding the schools.

Dr. Pine and others are available to individual classroom for tailored lectures using other, shorter works (e.g., a shorter version of *The Devil in the Doorway*; and a book, *Father Figure*, by Sumi Mukherjee), to supplement the art-as-advocacy/education aspects of the program. The overall program also uses a unique computer-based Benefits Visualization model that provides the means to keep programs on track to deliver quantifiable social and economic goals. Programming is interactive, contextual, scalable, and relevant to systems strengthening.

The overall program integrates arts and culture with public health information and programming in order to move forward a highly innovative awareness, education, training and community-building and public health prevention/mitigation effort while maintaining highest standards of artistic merit.

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