



CSA is not one group's problem. It is a near-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 helps provide that effort.

Speech for Department of the Navy's CFC Award Ceremony, Pentagon

Contact: Department of the Navy

DON has a \$2.5 million dollar CFC goal with 17 accounts and over 34 campaign managers.

This event recognizes the hard work of their managers.

Approximately 50+ personnel present, Stop the Silence is the representative CFC Charity speaker

**Stop the Silence and Child Sexual Abuse
Answers to the World's Problem**

Feb. 7, 2017, 2pm

1. Hello. Thank you for allowing us to speak today on behalf of all Combined Federal Campaign charities. We are happy to be here to provide an overview of what we all do to serve our communities. Your support is so important to groups like ours!

2. Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse, Inc. (or Stop the Silence, on the web at www.stopthesilence.org) is a locally-based non-profit. The Mission of the organization is to expose and stop child sexual abuse (CSA) and help survivors heal worldwide.

Why is it important to talk about this – to do something about it?! It's such a hard subject! It can't be occurring that much! Can't the children just grow up and forget about it?

Well... In the U.S., more than one in four girls and about one in six boys are sexually abused by the time they are 18 years old! And the same is true across Europe – other parts of the world fare better and worse!

CSA causes grave physical and psychological trauma and social havoc. [I mentioned some of these below].

• Low self-esteem	• Teen pregnancy (U.S.: 60%)
• Anxiety	• Prostitution (in U.S., 95% of prostitutes / people)
• Isolation	• Drug and alcohol abuse (U.S.: 60-80%)
• Clinical depression , personality and bi-polar disorders, psychosis, other psych. disorders	• Incarceration (U.S.: 59% of females, about 1/3 of all those, both men & women, in for homicide)
• Dissociation	• Self-harm behaviors (cutting, burning)
• Nightmares	• Interpersonal difficulties (trouble at work / home)
• Flashbacks	• Teen pregnancy (U.S.: 60% experienced CSA)
• Difficulty concentrating	• Prostitution (U.S.: 95% of people in porn industry)
• Feeling unsafe	• Drug and alcohol abuse (60-80%)
• Runaways	• Suicide
• Promiscuity	• Chronic diseases, including:
• Regressive behaviors	○ Heart disease
• Eating disorders	○ Cancer
• Abstinence of sex	• Early death
• Reduced productivity	• Huge cost burden to government, enterprise, society

But, still, today, the vast majority of CSA is never reported (due to shame, fear, and other factors). Only one in 10 children in the U.S. tell and about 40% of women and 33% of men never tell anyone in their lifetimes! So they don't get the help they need. And, while most survivors of CSA do not go on to become perpetrators, having been abused increases their chances of abusing others.

So, what do we do?

- Our programming focuses on Awareness, Prevention, and Healing through a host of creative and impactful programming.
- Our program areas include: Media awareness and other awareness activities, Education (we educate parents, community members, corporate and non-profit groups), Training (service providers), and Policy development.
- Our current primary programs include:
 - Holistic and comprehensive social and community-based planning – we have trained school nurses and teachers in Prince George's County, police in Maryland, judges in the tri-state area; nurses from the University of Maryland School of Nursing; school psychologists and counselors in Cyprus; members of non-government organizations in Kenya; and many others.

- CSA Survivor Force, which is a media outreach program conducted in local media markets by adult survivors of CSA all over the U.S. and increasingly in other parts of the world who use their stories as the “hook” and then go on to provide the media with important information about child sexual abuse, so that we speak with one voice that educates large publics.
- Nanny Online Training (expanding to other audiences), In-person training (like Counselors in Prince George’s Co., MD, in Cyprus).
- Our Art as Advocacy program that includes films, theatre, music, and still art that couples art to open hearts and minds with objective and factual presentation of information.
- Advocacy for policy change.
- In the U.S., we work with many other organizations such as the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence (or NPEIV), the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), the Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA), the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), and Gunderson Health, to name just a few, working to increase societal understanding and train service providers so that that children are protected and so that children affected can survive and heal. Overseas, we are working with a UK-based group, Kids Count. We have presented at the House of Commons in the Parliament in London and are working up additional nation-wide programming for that country. We are continuing to work with the Government of Cyprus to train school teachers, counselors, and psychologists, and others nationwide as to what they can do to prevent and mitigate CSA. We are currently moving forward with programming in Ecuador, Hungary, Kenya, Micronesia, the UK, and South Africa.

People want to know if someone who was sexually abused as a child can recover from the trauma.

Yes! Support from family, friends, and other loved ones and community members and services, help the child find the resilience that he or she may need to heal. However, the road can be long and some of the trauma can have lasting consequences. I want to introduce you to Jill Short.

Jillian Short works with Stop the Silence and is a member of the Stop the Silence / NAASC CSA Survivor Force. Jill was abused by her older brother until she was 7. This was forty years ago—there were no programs of awareness in those days. She had not been educated by her school or her parents to speak up. Because of this, her abuse went unaddressed for many, many years and she did not get the help she needed—nor did her brother. Sadly, her brother went on to sexually abuse his three daughters. He won't get out of prison until he is 70. As for Jill, many years later, she learned that her children were being sexually abused (the intergenerational issues are important and complex and we need to understand and address them). Her children's abuser had also been a victim of sexual abuse as a child, and had gotten no help—there had been no help offered. No education of what to do.

Today, Jill's children are safe and happily thriving. Jill is living a rejuvenated life focused on providing for others what she notes that she wished she had received. She says, and I quote here: "I am so excited to be a part of Stop the Silence. It is a joy to see prevention, education and awareness going out to so many, and in so many ways! In embracing my story and speaking out, I have broken the chains and stopped the silence—for it is the silence that keeps the world enslaved and allows the perpetuation to continue. I am actively putting an end to that...and from here, the sky is the limit."

The society at large needs to have the information and understand how important it is to be aware and supportive, protect the children, and otherwise DO something about this! That's where we come in.

Stop the Silence aims to catalyze a response to it on the individual, family, community, and societal levels, in and of itself and in relation to broader societal violence. Our programming is tested and evaluated, and has proven to be effective in raising awareness, increasing understanding and knowledge, and generating action. We are pushing the programming forward in further collaboration with others. But we need your help!

3. As I close, I stand before you representing the 18,000 in this campaign and the over 4,000 listed in the Local CFC catalog of Caring. We are all asking for and very appreciative of your financial support during this 2017 NCA CFC giving period.

On behalf of the NCA CFC and its charities, I thank you for the privilege of speaking to you today. You are critical to the work we do! Thank you again!