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Girl Child Pornography

Girl child pornography is any visual depiction of female children, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, where the visual depiction and production involves the use of a minor female child engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Statistics/Facts:

- Of the known cases of child pornography: 73% are female children and 27% male children.
- Men represent the overwhelming majority of child pornography buyers.
- Girl children tend to appear in more extreme sexual images.
- Research shows that in pornographic depictions of children, 52% appear prepubescent, 42% appear pubescent, and 6% appear to be infants or toddlers.
- Once pornographic pictures are posted on the Internet, it is nearly impossible to remove the images completely. This can result in a never-ending cycle of abuse and violence for the girl child.

Preventive Practices:

- In the United States, the **1996 Child Pornography Prevention Act** extended existing federal criminal laws against child pornography to include computerized media.
- The **Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (FCACP)** is an organization of thirty-four prominent financial institutions and Internet industry leaders. FCACP's goal is to eliminate the commercial availability of child pornography by locating national and international financial transactions used to distribute and sell child pornography.
- The **Association of Sites Advocating Child Protection (ASACP)** provides an online hotline for web-surfers and webmasters to report suspected cases of child pornography. The reports are then sent to associations such as the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and other International agencies.

Actions to be taken to Stop Girl Child Pornography

United Nations:

- There is a significant lack of data and information on girl child pornography. More attention must be devoted to the specific ways that girl children are affected by child pornography. Girls are more vulnerable to the pornography industry because of social, economic, political and cultural inequalities worldwide.
- Girl survivors of child pornography should be actively involved in the design and implementation of preventive methods, strategies, and programs that foster international awareness of the issue.
- **Criminal action is required to eliminate Internet-based pornography rings that post, distribute, and sell girl child pornography as a lucrative global business.**

Businesses and Internet Providers:

- Businesses and Internet providers must strengthen their efforts to identify girl child pornography and report such images and/or behavior to the authorities.
- Because girl child pornography is an international market, businesses and Internet providers must have a zero-tolerance policy for any involvement and/or profit from the child pornography industry.
- Internet providers must adopt preventive policies, such as advanced technology screenings and staff dedicated to detecting, addressing, and removing child pornography sites from their servers.
- Chat rooms and social media sites must have strict tactics and policies for removing pornographic images of children from their sites, as well as clear reporting mechanisms for possession and distribution of child pornography.

NGOs and Individuals:

- The global community must devote sustained attention to the prevention of child pornography.
- It is important that we understand how girls become involved in this industry, and how to prevent their exploitation. Grassroots activism must be taken against the distribution and possession of child pornography.

***Because the World Wide Web is globally expansive it is extremely difficult to monitor. Prevention methods lie in understanding why offenders purchase, distribute, and/or create this material, and then building effective strategies to address the child pornography industry.**

