

Resources which can support your initiatives:

- The **National Council of Churches in India (NCCI)** was established in 1914 as the National Missionary Council. For more information: www.ncci1914.com
- The **Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)** is a fellowship of churches and ecumenical councils in Asia. For more information on its children's programmes: www.cca.org.hk/home/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Website_Upholding-the-Dignity-and-Rights-of-Children.pdf
- The **World Council of Churches (WCC)** website has a wealth of resources for the Churches' Commitments to Children: www.oikoumene.org/resources-children
- **Childline India** works for the protection of the rights of all children with focus on the most vulnerable (www.childlineindia.org.in). Several child-friendly videos in English and Hindi can also be found here: www.childlineindia.org.in/1098/CHILDLINE-videos.html
- **Together for Girls:** Proven solutions and best practices to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and youth. www.togetherforgirls.org/svsolutions
- **INSPIRE:** Seven strategies for ending violence against children. www.end-violence.org/inspire
- **WePROTECT:** Tackling online risks with the international movement dedicated to national and global action. www.weprotect.org

Online self-help tools for potential offenders

The **Lucy Faithfull Foundation's "Stop It Now"** campaign has anonymous online self-help tools for potential offenders. www.get-support.stopitnow.org.uk
www.get-help.stopitnow.org.uk

Save the Children Finland provides an anonymous "self-help" website to understand and evaluate these feelings. If in doubt, talk to a trusted doctor to find help. www.savethechildren.fi/selfhelp



Helping Children Out of the Shadows and Into the Light

CHURCH RESOURCES FOR ENDING
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The divine light shines most brightly in the smiles of children.

So Christians have always acknowledged their sacred duty to nurture children and protect them from harm.

Now the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) are together promoting the “Out of the Shadows” campaign through their “**Churches’ Commitments to Children**” programme to support local churches and regional partners in protecting children and adolescents from sexual violence. The campaign can help churches identify important issues and develop ways to address them.

What is the Out of the Shadows Index?

The Out of the Shadows Index, which was developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit, measures how national actors in 60 countries address child sexual abuse and exploitation. The index, which focuses on policies, practices and standards, reveals that much more needs to be done to achieve the United Nations’ goal of ending all forms of violence against children by 2030.

The index evaluated critical issues in each country, including education and awareness-building, reproductive health, gender norms, victim support, law enforcement and child sexual abuse online.

What does this mean for the churches’ efforts to end child sexual abuse?

This index shows that there are proven steps that all countries can take right now to end child sexual abuse. Civil society actors, including churches, are well placed to raise awareness of threats of child sexual abuse, put in place preventive measures, and support victims, especially among the most vulnerable.

God is light; in God there is no darkness at all.
1 John 1:5

India

Overall score: 57.6 All countries average: 55.4

AREAS OF PROGRESS

LEGAL: The Indian Penal Code and the 2012 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act of India (POCSO) protect child sexual abuse and exploitation in a gender-neutral way, including the online grooming of minors.

FRONTLINES: Government organizations have guidelines for education, medical, mental health and social workers interacting with victims.

REPORTING: The National Crime Records Bureau of India maintains and publishes data on recorded child sexual abuse and exploitation offenses. The Ministry of Women & Child Development has conducted a study on the prevalence of child abuse, including sexual abuse.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

TECHNOLOGY & TOURISM: India does not have its own notice and takedown system that allows the public to report child abuse content on the internet. The travel and tourism industry also does not officially address the issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

MEDIA: The media has made no attempt to self-regulate how incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation are reported.

OFFENDERS: The government does not seem to provide any programs to prevent potential offenders from committing a sexual offense against a child, nor does it provide support services for those who are at risk of reoffending. Civil society organizations also do not seem to be working specifically in this area.

Complete rankings and country summaries are available at www.outoftheshadows.eiu.com

Together, we can help children affected by sexual abuse to step out of the shadows and into the light.