Resources which can support your initiatives:

- **The National Council of Churches in the Philippines** is an ecumenical fellowship of churches. For more information: **www.nccphilippines.org**

- **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**

- **Bantay Bata 163** is the child welfare arm of ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation. It runs the national child helpline number, 163, and a Children's Village for those suffering from abuse. **www.corporate.abs-cbn.com/lingkodkapamilya/bantay-bata**

- **Together for Girls:** Proven solutions and best practices to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and youth. **www.togetherforgirls.org/svsolutions**

- Child-friendly video: A child-friendly video encourages children concerned to contact a toll-free Child Helpline. (Produced by UK-based **Childline** - www.childline.org.uk) **www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCA6EhBhiC8**

- **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**

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Christian Conference of Asia

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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 the Philippines (NCCP), 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.

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

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.

The Philippines

Overall score: 55.3 All countries average: 55.4

AREAS OF PROGRESS

LEGAL: The Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act protects children against sexual exploitation. This includes any visual depiction of minors engaging in sexual activity and getting minors to perform sexual acts, regardless of gender. There are guidelines for law enforcement professionals who respond to cases of child sexual abuse.

NATIONAL PLAN: The "National Plan of Action for Children" includes protecting children against trafficking. There is also a government program to prevent the commercial and sexual exploitation of children in the tourism industry.

FRONTLINE: Government departments have issued on interacting with children who are victims of exploitation, including for education, health and social workers.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

TOURISM: Some travel and tourism operators adhere to the "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism", which prioritizes the prevention of child sexual exploitation. However, none of the national travel and tourism industry associations adhere to this code.

RAPE: While the Philippines rape law does explicitly mention children, it does not specify more severe punishment for offenses against children.

OFFENDERS: The Philippines does not seem to have a program to prevent possible offenders from committing a sexual offense against a child, nor are there support services for those at risk of reoffending. Civil society organizations do not explicitly work in this area.

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