

Resources which can support your initiatives:

- The **Cece Yara Foundation** works to prevent child sexual abuse and provides support and counselling for victims. It also manages the national child helpline available 24 hours a day.
www.ceceyara.org
- The **Christian Council of Nigeria** is the National Council of Churches in Nigeria. More information can be found at
www.ccnnigeria.org.ng
- The **World Council of Churches (WCC)** website has a wealth of resources for the Churches' Commitments to Children:
www.oikoumene.org/resources-children
- **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



World Council
of Churches

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 Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) 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

Nigeria

Overall score: 46.4 All countries average: 55.4

AREAS OF PROGRESS

LEGAL: Lagos state has laws that protect children against sexual offenses such as rape, trafficking, the purchase of sexual services or other sexual activities, and online grooming.

POLICIES: Nigeria has federal plans to combat sexual violence against children. Federal ministries and the Nigeria Police Force are responsible for enforcing child protection.

CIVIL SOCIETY & MEDIA: Several organizations provide emergency care and services to child victims of sexual violence. The media’s code of ethics covers the issue of reporting on child sexual abuse and exploitation.

EDUCATION: Comprehensive sex education is in schools almost nationwide. A national child sexual abuse awareness program exists through 2020.

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

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

SOCIAL PROTECTION: Reporting mechanisms, prevention and rehabilitation services, and victim support programs are inadequate.

INSTABILITY: Social unrest and armed conflict are ongoing threats, and confidence in the police and judicial system are low.

REPORTING: Nigeria’s laws do not require professionals working with victims to report child sexual abuse and exploitation, and data collection on incidents of abuse is inconsistent.

TECHNOLOGY: Nigeria’s technology and telecommunications industries do not prioritize dealing with child sexual abuse and exploitation.

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