International Centre
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

LATIN AMERICA COALITION AGAINST
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION ONLINE

Introduction

Technology has impacted every aspect of our lives – affecting us both positively and negatively. Through the Internet and new technologies, offenders are able to constantly find new ways to use these technological advances to harm children. Sadly, law enforcement agencies around the world often have insufficient resources to keep pace.

Fueled by the Internet, child victims are treated as commodities at increasingly young ages. While there is little empirical research on the scope of the problem, there is clear evidence that the number of child sexual abuse images being created and shared is increasing exponentially, and becoming progressively more transnational in nature. With the advance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), children are enjoying greater access to the Internet without a full understanding of the risks they may face due to misuse of programs, applications, and social networks.

The International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE) 2014 statistics[1] indicate that the number of child abuse images being created and shared is increasing exponentially, the age of victims is becoming younger and the transactions are becoming progressively more transnational in nature. In 2013, INHOPE analysts processed 89,758 reports assessed to contain unique URLs of child sexual abuse material, a 63% increase from the previous year. Additionally, the data indicates that 81% of these child victims are female with 7% of them being infants. There is also evidence that the commercial child pornography industry that comprised 9% of the total in 2014, has been dependent upon the use of the credit card and other mainstream payment systems, with the use of digital currencies now being seen in this space.

First formed in the U.S. in 2006, the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (FCACP) is an alliance between private industry and the public sector in the battle against commercial child pornography. It is managed by the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) and its sister organization, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). In 2009, ICMEC launched the Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (APAC-FCACP) to broaden the fight against the online sale and dissemination of child pornography.

The FCACPs plays an important role in eradicating the profitability of commercial child pornography by bringing together banks, credit card companies, online third-party payment systems, technology companies, internet service providers, social networking platforms, and law enforcement agencies to find ways to disrupt the economics of the child pornography business and develop solutions that are in line with local law and policy.[2]

In Latin America, however, there are very few statistics that illustrate the magnitude of the problem of child sexual exploitation and abuse online. While there are many efforts being carried out in the region,

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[1] INHOPE 2014 | Facts, Figures & Trends: http://www.inhope.org/tns/resources/statistics-and-infographics/statistics-and-infographics-2014.aspxhttp://www.inhope.org/tns/resources/statistics-and-infographics/statistics-and-infographics-2014.aspx

[2] U.S Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography: http://www.icmec.org/fcacp; Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography: http://www.icmec.org/apac-fcacp

and the majority of countries in the region have legislation criminalizing child pornography, there are few cases being brought to justice and little awareness on prevention and investigation efforts. Statistics and conviction rates tend to be scattered among different governmental and non-governmental organizations, making it difficult to be easily accessed, grouped and analyzed for improved policies.

Based on the experience built by our existing FCACPs and ICMEC's expertise on the issue, ICMEC Latin America & Caribbean (ICMEC LAC) is spearheading the creation of a Latin America Coalition Against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Online (CLAC; Latin America Coalition), with the objective of strengthening existing regional efforts, while contributing to the development of a more comprehensive regional response in combating child sexual abuse and exploitation online.

The objectives of the Latin America Coalition are to:
1. Serve as a repository for guidelines, protocols, and actions related to child protection in the region; and
2. Be a regional platform for sharing existing regional and international good practices, discussing the standardization of processes and procedures, and other relevant issues.

These objectives will be accomplished by bringing together and facilitating an open exchange between leaders and decision makers from Electronic Service Providers (ESPs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), NGOs, government, and law enforcement agencies in the region, as well as existing Internet hotlines. Ultimately, it is anticipated that a more coordinated and cohesive regional approach will help further strengthen local efforts in combating online child sexual abuse material.

CLAC members are committed to helping reduce, in accordance with their mandate and experience, the threat to children online and to demonstrating their commitment to community safety and crime reduction with a particular focus on child sexual abuse and exploitation through proactive, decisive, and collaborative approaches.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

CLAC will base its actions, discussions and decisions on the principles of transparency and fairness, in an effort to maximize its impact and increase the resources available in the region.

Policy Goals
CLAC members commit to taking specific and concrete actions to support the implementation of the following policy targets:
- Identifying regional gaps, challenges and trends in combating online child sexual abuse online;
- Strengthening existing and/or supporting the development of new hotlines for reporting child sexual abuse online in countries throughout the region;
- Enhancing efforts to develop guidelines (or strengthen existing guidelines), protocols, and procedures for responding more effectively to child sexual abuse online;
- Supporting the creation of protocols for in-country coordination to respond more effectively to child sexual abuse online, as requested;
- Advancing efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of child sexual abuse online;

- Encouraging stakeholders to engage in raising public awareness of the risks that may be posed by children's activities online;
- Promoting/supporting improved public awareness of technology/online tools that can protect children and teach them to be safer online; and
- Reducing the availability of child pornography online and the re-victimization of children.

CLAC members also commit to developing specific policy targets, activities, and indicators to assess progress towards reaching the Latin America Coalition's regional policy goals. Members also will indicate what specific action they intend to take in order to reach these goals, in accordance with their national or organizational situation, and commit to implementing them.

Structure and Governance

CLAC is an open network of organizations and companies that operates on a voluntary basis with ICMEC providing secretariat support, and with ICMEC LAC serving as chair. To keep pace with the growth of the Latin America Coalition, the formation of a Steering Committee is anticipated with responsibility for the hands-on management of its efforts.

CLAC's governance structure is planned to support effective and transparent service delivery based on sound decision making and performance management. In addition to the annual meetings to be coordinated by ICMEC LAC, the Latin America Coalition foresees the creation of sub-working groups that will establish specific goals, projects and materials. Current working groups include:
- Prevention and Awareness
- Private Sector Collaboration
- Law Enforcement Investigation
- Latin American Hotlines

Future working groups may be formed in consultation with active members on a needs basis.

Any CLAC member may submit project proposals that may help with the fulfillment of CLAC's objectives. Such proposals will be discussed at regional meetings organized by ICMEC LAC, and will be shared with the other members for consideration, analysis, discussion, and approval. If not approved, the proposal shall be returned to the introducing member with recommendations for improvement based on the objectives of CLAC.

CLAC members will develop a strategic plan to establish goals and objectives for the next five years and will be reassessed annually to accommodate necessary adjustments. ICMEC LAC will work with members to develop and execute the annual operating plan, which will ensure the implementation of the strategic plan.

Reporting

To ensure best practices and successes are shared among participating countries, members commit to sharing information with the Secretariat (ICMEC LAC) on progress towards the stated goals.

To ensure decisions and activities are based on the most up-to-date information and to ensure members that their activities towards achieving policy goals are recorded and disseminated, each Working Group will provide brief quarterly reports to the Secretariat containing the following information:

1. Activities – in country or regional, implemented or planned – aimed at achieving a policy goal for the period;
2. Policies – organizational or in-country – developed with the aim of achieving a policy goal for the period;
3. Advances in legislative reform on combating child sexual abuse online and other Internet-related issues during the reporting period.

The Secretariat will be responsible for providing meeting minutes and for compiling documents and materials to be shared with members; such documents and materials will be made available to all members in a shared folder. The Secretariat also will deploy a shared calendar with events relevant to the members, will be updated continuously with the support of all members.

The Secretariat will produce an electronic annual report based on the minutes of the meetings and the quarterly reports submitted by members, which will be distributed to all members. The annual report will describe the implementation status of the measures announced and assess progress made toward reaching CLAC's goals.

PROPOSED STRUCTURE

Founding Partners/Members
- ICMEC
- INHOPE
- INTERPOL
- Red NATIC

Expected Partners

Private Sector
- Facebook
- Google
- GSMA
- Microsoft
- Twitter
- Yahoo!

NGOs
- Chicos.net
- ECPAT
- Global Infancia
- Paniamor

- Save the Children

- Red PaPaz/Te Protejo
- RCPI-Perú
- Safernet

Regional Agencies/Networks
- ICANN Latin America (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)
- LACIGF (Latin America & Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum)
- MMI-LAC (Latin America & Caribbean Movement for Children)
- OAS (Organization of American States)

UN Agencies
- ITU (International Telecommunication Union)
- UNICEF LACRO (UNICEF Latin America & Caribbean Regional Office)
- UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

Law Enforcement Agencies
- Cybercrime and/or crimes against children groups
- Other law enforcement agencies

Academic Sector
- Universities
- Professional associations
- Professional groups dedicated to research

Membership
Membership is institutional and not specific to individuals. Members are requested to:
- Have a proven track record of cooperation on reducing the threat to children online and demonstrate a strong commitment to digital citizenship, online safety and crime reduction;
- Subscribe to/support this charter in writing;
- List your organization as a CLAC member in relevant print and online materials;
- Designate at least one representative to actively participate in CLAC activities, approximately 4-7 hours per month, such as:
  - Participating in CLAC meetings, which take place at least twice a year, in person (upon funding availability) or via teleconference;
  - Joining one or two of the Working Groups to share expertise and knowledge in focus areas. Each Working Group meets via conference call and meetings are scheduled according to the Working Group's mandate and on an as needed basis.
  - Providing expertise and content for best practices documents and other thought-leadership pieces.

- Helping expand CLAC membership through outreach within industry, governments, civil society, and other stakeholders; and
- Assisting, whenever possible, with identifying sources of in-kind support or financial contributions for CLAC's work, such as facilities for hosting meetings, or funding for general operations, events and research.*

*Financial contributions toward the operation of CLAC's secretariat are welcome, although not required as a condition of membership.