

Crossing the Bridge: You Are Not Alone is a faith-based initiative and a division of Interfaith Clergy.

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child sexual abuse is any interaction between a child and an adult (or another child) in which the child is used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or an observer. Sexual abuse can include both touching and non-touching behaviors. Touching behaviors may involve touching of the vagina, penis, breasts, or buttocks, oral-genital contact, or sexual intercourse. Non-touching behaviors can include voyeurism (trying to look at a child's naked body), exhibitionism, or exposing the child to pornography. Abusers often do not use physical force but may use play, deception, threats, or other forms of coercion to engage children and maintain their silence. Abusers frequently employ persuasive and manipulative tactics to keep the child engaged. These tactics—referred to as “grooming”—may include buying gifts or arranging special activities, which can further confuse the victim.

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

" YOU ARE NOT ALONE "

OUR MISSION:

To protect children from sexual abuse through education, advocacy, and support.



OUR VISION:

To ensure that every child is safe from sexual abuse.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

CHILD ABUSE FACTS

- About 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys in the US experience child sexual abuse.
- About 90% of child sexual abuse is by someone known and trusted by the child or child's family.
- The total lifetime economic burden of child sexual abuse in the US in 2015 was estimated to be at least \$9.3 billion.





CROSSING THE BRIDGE " YOU ARE NOT ALONE "



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

- Education & Awareness: Implement programs to educate children, parents, and the community about the signs of abuse and how to prevent it.
- Training: Provide training for staff, volunteers, and caregivers on how to recognize and respond to child sexual abuse.
- Policies and Procedures: Establish clear policies and procedures for preventing and responding to abuse, including background checks for staff and volunteers.
- Creating a Safe Environment
- Safe Spaces: Ensure that all environments where children are present are safe and monitored.
- Code of Conduct: Develop a code of conduct for interactions between adults and children.

- Engaging the Community
- Partnerships: Collaborate with other organizations, schools, and faith-based groups to strengthen your efforts.
- Advocacy: Advocate for policies and legislation that protect children from abuse.
- Support and Resources
- Support Services: Provide support services for victims and their families, such as counseling and legal assistance.
- Resources: Offer resources and materials to educate the community about child sexual abuse prevention.
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Regular Reviews: Continuously monitor and evaluate your programs to ensure they are effective and make improvements as needed.

By following these steps, you can create a robust mission to prevent child sexual abuse and make a significant impact in your community.

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