Every child deserves to live in safety and freedom.
FILIPINO CHILDREN HAVE BEEN FALLING PREY TO ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In this trafficking crime, children as young as two months old are at risk.

Children are trafficked by parents, trusted relatives, friends, or neighbors for the creation of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) like photos and videos.

In some cases, traffickers livestream the exploitation to satisfy the online demand of child sex offenders in foreign countries paying to direct the abuse in real time.

THE PROBLEM

Our Response

IJM Works with the Philippine Government to Protect Children and Hold Perpetrators Accountable

IJM provides support to the Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC) and the National Bureau of Investigation Anti-Trafficking Division (NBI-AHTRAD) in the investigation of suspects and in rescue operations.

IJM supports child-protective prosecution in its casework and collaboration with the Department of Justice - Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (DOJ-IACAT).

Partnering with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), IJM supports the care of each survivor. It is only when each rescued survivor is fully restored that justice is fully served.

A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

The work against online sexual exploitation of children cannot succeed without a supportive environment. We partner with churches, corporations, local and community organizations, including the media and academe, as well as the international community.

IJM's protection model equips change agents in the government and local communities, and measures the results.

IJM Focuses on Four Key Areas of Protection and Sustainability

IJM provides support to the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC). The online sexual exploitation of children is a borderless crime. PICACC enables strong collaboration with international law enforcement.

IJM Advocated for Additional Resources to PNP Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC)'s budget, which Congress increased by 347%.

IJM conducts training to equip law enforcement in handling cases of online sexual exploitation of children, such as the and Internet Crimes Against Children training programs and the Advanced Investigative Workshop, an innovative mentorship-based learning experience that effectively led to casework results, compared to the typical classroom-based capacity building training.

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IJM FOCUSES ON FOUR KEY AREAS OF PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

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The Child is placed under custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and undergoes an assessment.

IJM works with the Philippine Department of Justice to gather evidence against the perpetrator, and prosecute.

The child survivor undergoes placement in a shelter or foster family to ensure their safety and to provide them with a loving and nurturing environment.

Local law enforcement receives a tip from international counterparts or local concerned citizens. After investigation, an operation is conducted to rescue the child.

Guiding the survivor as they overcome trauma is a holistic, and often long, endeavor, guarding and supporting them in these six spheres.

Economic Empowerment
Ensuring the survivor's household has adequate income and that he or she is engaged in school, training or work. Some families are granted livelihood assistance and other support services from the local government.

Mental Wellbeing
This may include sessions with a psychologist and check-in with the survivor's social worker. Survivors are taught positive coping strategies and prevented from harmful behaviors.

Physical Wellbeing
Ensuring that survivors take care of their health needs, and can access basic medical services and safe, stable housing.

Safety
Ensuring that survivors are free from the threat or experience of victimization and are motivated and able to remain safe.

Legal Protection
Keeping survivors educated about their rights and protections and enabling them to pursue justice if these are violated.

Social Support
For the survivor to have supportive relationships and be accepted by the community.

The Survivor’s Journey
IJM walks alongside the survivor from the moment of rescue, all the way through the rehabilitation stage.

The Global Survivor Network
The Global Survivor Network (GSN) is an international group of survivor leaders who desire and pursue safe communities through justice systems that protect the most vulnerable.

As global momentum grows in the fight against this crime, it must be guided by those who understand the problem and solution best—survivors themselves.

Through the GSN local networks of survivor groups are given the opportunity to advocate for change in their own communities. A group of survivor leaders within the GSN will amplify survivor voices globally by speaking at international forums with policymakers, philanthropists, and thought leaders—sharing the story and mission of ending the online sexual exploitation of children.

Survivor Voice
Survivors are speaking out and fueling the global movement against the online sexual exploitation of children.

Ruby, IJM Survivor Leader
Ruby* lends her powerful voice to speak out against online sexual exploitation of children and spark action from governments and tech companies around the world.

* a pseudonym
Rosie’s Story
Rosie’s mother was not always around, but when she was home, it was not to care for her children, but to use them.

Rosie’s father was a busy construction worker, working hard to feed his six children. Rosie’s mother, who would move in and out of their lives, set up a laptop and webcam in one corner of their single-room house. She would then arrange for Rosie, her twin sisters, and two cousins, to participate in “live shows,” sexual abuse streamed online for paying customers.

Forced by her mother to perform sexual acts streamed to a paying audience, Rosie and her sisters hated it, knew it was wrong, but couldn’t do anything about it.

Rosie was much younger than her teenage sisters, and they tried to shield her from the abuse. They volunteered to take her place whenever a customer requested a child.

One day the girls were rescued in an IJM-supported operation. Rosie didn’t cry nor shout for joy. She was silent.

Rosie’s IJM social worker explained that “although Rosie hated what her mother did to her and her sisters, the nature of online sexual exploitation often leads to victims feeling guilty or responsible for breaking up their family.”

Rosie soon came out of her shell. “I like to run around the yard with my friends. I like to color. I like to make jewelry, and I like to read.” She also mentioned she loves spaghetti and ice cream from 7-Eleven.

Following their mother’s imprisonment, Rosie and her sisters stayed together at a shelter. Rosie’s sisters were thankful for the safe and supportive shelter environment. Rosie soon came out of her shell. “I like to run around the yard with my friends. I like to color. I like to make jewelry, and I like to read.” She also mentioned she loves spaghetti and ice cream from 7-Eleven.

Under a home-schooling curriculum, Rosie finished two grade levels in just one year, and wants to finish high school and college.

The once quiet and fearful Rosie is now a motivated, joyful, and resilient young girl.

CASEWORK RESULTS: 2011-2022*

IJM Philippines has achieved incredible growth, with strong momentum in both collaborative casework and system reform initiatives in partnership with the Philippine Government and other stakeholders.

Recent Papers

- Philippine ISP Visibility: Technology Utilization and Its Implications Related to Combating the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (October 2020)

We embrace a whole-of-society approach in battling online sexual exploitation of children. It takes a global community to keep children protected from this horrific crime.
IJM PHILIPPINES IS AT THE FRONTLINES OF A GLOBAL EFFORT TO END ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

IJM’s Program to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children is an initiative designed to combat and eradicate the online sexual exploitation of children around the world.

IJM PHILIPPINES

IJM’s flagship program for collaborative casework and community protection

IJM Philippines

National Office

Our National team works closely with our national government (PNP-WCPC, NBI-AHTRAD, DOJ-IACAT, DSWD). The national office is led by Atty. Samson Inocencio, who is also Regional Vice President of IJM’s Global Programs to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Local Offices

Cebu

Atty. Lucille Dejito, Director of IJM Cebu, leads the team in working with the Visayas and Mindanao local governments.

Manila

Atty. Rey Bicol is Director of IJM Manila, leading a team that works with the local government in Luzon.

IJM’s Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

IJM’s Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children was formed in 2020 to support IJM Philippines’ mission of protecting children from online sexual exploitation and scaling protection globally.

Learn more about The Center:

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IJM works with the Philippine government, international law enforcement, and relevant stakeholders to combat the trafficking of Filipino children for livestreamed sexual abuse.

IJM PHILIPPINES seeks to protect children from online sexual exploitation by strengthening the capacity of the Philippine criminal justice system to enforce the law, increasing local and global collaboration, building trauma-informed networks of care, and empowering survivor and government leadership.

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