

Cyber Child Pornography: A Review Paper of the Social and Legal Issues and Remedies-And a Proposed Technological Solution

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A cyber child pornography case in point

Without question, child pornography is a subject often avoided in both social and research circles because of the heinous abuses that targeted children face, often for years without being saved. One such case was described in a recent popular media piece, written by Julia Morgan and entitled, “ruinyrjps?” This real-life drama unfolded as follows. A Toronto, Ontario, police officer by the name of Paul Gillespie just received about 450 images posted on the Internet by an officer in the United Kingdom—images of a little girl being beaten and raped. In several of the images, there was a hunting knife that was pointed at her, and on her little body were disgusting slogans like, “Kill me, I’m a slut.” Perhaps one of the most disturbing images was that of the little girl of about age five or six stuck naked inside a dog cage—with a terrified look in her big brown eyes. She was crying, and the corners of her mouth were turned downward. Using photo-editing software, Paul Gillespie was able to enlarge the contents of the images to determine the particulars surrounding the little girl’s amusement park wristband and Girl Scout uniform number. The policeman then went to work using good old-fashioned police work.

The photo-enhanced leads eventually suggested that the little girl was a student in North Carolina. In just 36 h, the little girl was identified. When the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents found her outside of an upscale house in a quiet suburban neighborhood, she appeared to be having fun riding on her bicycle. Inside the home was a male relative who put her through the abuse. During the arrest, FBI agents got five computers with 15 years’ worth of child porn, as well as cameras, weapons, a pair of dog cages, a Girl Scout uniform, to name just a few pieces of evidence. The man accused of the crime, a software developer, was apparently a well-respected citizen. But he was anything but. The relative belonged to a group of online child pornographers who created and watched “hurt core”—explicit, hurtful images of children – younger than 13 and often just a few months in age – who were brutally sexually abused and in obvious pain. The captured relative of the little girl was not a very nice person. Just before his capture, he had brutally sexually assaulted a three-month-old male and had hired a fellow paedophile to murder his wife. The FBI agents prosecuting the case said they classified this man as one of the most evil pedophiles they had ever arrested.

1.2. What is known about child pornographers?

There is no question that the Internet has caused the most explosive growth in child pornography than at any other time in history. One of the reasons for this explosion is that technology itself has greatly reduced the barrier to entry for the production and distribution of child porn. Cameras and powerful editing multimedia software are becoming more affordable and easier to use, simplifying the process of creating and distributing child porn. Child

pornography, defined by federal law in the United States as “a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct,” has been causing harm to children for centuries. But the Internet has given child porn new life because of the ease of transmission from one paedophile to many other paedophiles and from one country to many other countries. The frightening reality is that at least 80% of those who purchase child pornography are active child molesters. Moreover, 36% of child pornographers who use the U.S. mail to exploit a child have been found to be actual child molesters. Child pornographers tend to range in age from 10 to 65. From a psychological profile perspective, psychologist Kimberly Young and Psychiatrist Alvin Cooper, two experts who have studied online sexual behaviour, maintain that cybersex (whether it involves minors or not) is a form of psychopathology and a symptom of neurotic, compulsive behaviour. It is, without question, a type of addiction. Viewed as a type of socio- and psychopathology, cyber child pornography, in particular, is as an element of unhealthy power relations, whereby an adult abuses minors for his own pleasures. These acts of real-world abuse are often set into motion by adults having unhealthy sexual fantasies involving minors. For the most part, the cyber- supported sexual fantasy fulfillment with minors is found in ritualized practices and fixations, primarily of a sadistic sort. Pornography is progressive, besides being addictive, note the experts. As people become desensitized by the porn they see, they seek out more and more shocking material. It is, therefore, no surprise that child porn is becoming so vile and so prevalent on the Internet—with at least one-third of Internet traffic comprised of this type of shocking material. Not only are there pictures of penetrative sex by adults with two-month-old babies, but the Wonderland Club, which was discovered by the FBI and Scotland Yard in 2001, required prospective members to post 10,000 original images of child porn. That gives citizens around the world an idea of how many of these images there are in circulation.

1.3. The depth of the problem

In 2005, Top Ten Reviews, Inc. estimated that child porn generates over \$US 3 Billion annually, and over 100,000 Websites exist with the primary purpose of selling it to others, according to customs service estimates. . Moreover, about 20% of the youths who frequent the Internet claim they have received sexual solicitations while online, and 89% of those who engage in online Chat Rooms say they have received such solicitations. What is quite alarming is that 29% of children aged 7 through 17 who frequently go online say they would freely give out their email addresses to others—making them ripe targets for online predators. According to law enforcement agents, daily pedophiles exploit every aspect of the Internet, sharing children abuse tips and trading millions of “homemade” movies and photos of suffering children. Police estimate that anywhere from 25% to 50% of individuals viewing and trading cyber child porn have also committed acts of child sex abuse. Police further estimate that over 50,000 children worldwide are abused and used as child porn actors. Often, the children are bound, raped, and sodomized. Sadly, of this large number of children likely abused, apparently only a small fraction of them have been identified, and an even smaller fraction have been rescued by law enforcement officers. Adults engaged in cyber child porn are pleased to learn that many other like-minded adults exist, and they often utilize this reality to rationalize their own behaviors—which tend to escalate in aggressive acts – to hurt core – over time.

Objective

- To know about the social and legal issues surrounding online pornography and child pornography.
- To know about various legislations passed against child pornography across the world.

Hypothesis

Differences in the definition of cyber child pornography have been complicating the prosecution of cyber child pornographers around the globe, and the reality is that jurisdictional problems will likely continue for a while longer.

Sources

Secondary Sources

- Books
- E-sources
- Research papers

2. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND THE INTERNET: AN OVERVIEW.

The secretive, complex and sinister nature of sexual abusers who use the Internet as a means of communication and distribution of abusive images is summed up by what police found when they infiltrated the "Shadowz Brotherhood" network. Authorities say some members of the group sexually abused children and then posted the images on their Web site, which also provided advice on how to meet children in Internet chat rooms. They used sophisticated encryption techniques, sometimes hiding material in seemingly innocent picture files, officials said. Police said administrators operated a "star" system to rate members: after initial vetting, new members received a one-star rating, allowing them to view certain chat rooms, newsgroups and bulletin boards. To gain further stars they had to post images of child sex abuse on the group's site; as they gained stars, they obtained greater access to restricted sites containing the most graphic material. To further increase security, the group was structured in cells whose members knew only each other, police said.

2.1 Save the Children Hotlines

Save the Children has implemented programs to combat the growing problem of child sexual abuse on the Internet based on commitment to the philosophy of protecting children through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The first Save the Children Hotline started as a project in connection with the First World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm 1996. Save the Children Norway started operating this Hotline in January 1997, and within the first two years they received more than 6000 reports. The conclusions and recommendations within this position paper are partly based upon the experience and knowledge gained by six Save the Children organisations that are actively involved in combating child pornography on the Internet. Five of these organisations currently run hotlines. The content of this position paper is also based on the experience that has been gained through membership of INHOPE, the international network of hotlines combating illegal content

online. This network provides an important platform for exchange of expertise and the development of best practice standards among hotlines. Save the Children organisations running hotlines are all members of INHOPE.

The Save the Children organisations involved are: Save the Children Sweden, Save the Children Denmark, Save the Children Finland, Save the Children Iceland, Save the Children Italy and Save the Children Norway.

Apart from the hotlines, Save the Children organisations have been active within their own countries in raising awareness about safety on the Internet. An example of this is the Safer Chat site operated by Save the Children Denmark in co-operation with the Danish Crime Prevention Council, www.sikkerchat.dk. This has received massive attention amongst the general public and has enabled research to be undertaken on how children use chat sites in co-operation with the Danish National Children's Council.

2.2 How does a Hotline operate?

A hotline acts as a referral system and gives the general public the opportunity to refer potentially illegal images found on the Internet to a database where the material can be assessed and forwarded to law enforcement agencies, or other hotlines in the host server country.

Save the Children hotline staff work closely together with Internet Service Providers and with national law enforcement agencies who are involved in the investigation of IT-crimes.

There is a need for international co-operation, exchange of information and expertise between Hotlines in different countries. Analysis of a referral often shows that the website originates from a country other than where the hotline is situated. The INHOPE network facilitates this important co-operation between hotlines. If for example a website is situated in the USA, reports are forwarded to the National Centre of Missing and Exploited Children in Washington. This organization is a member of INHOPE and has formal and informal links to European hotlines.

2.3 The complaints received

The Danish Save the Children Hotline receives between 5000 and 6000 reports per year in a country with a population of 5.5 million people. When the reports are analyzed, only a certain amount is assessed as being illegal according to the Danish Penal Code. Some reports received by Save the Children concern so-called "child erotica", some reports refer to images that can be offensive to the viewer, but are not illegal under national legislation. Finally some reports refer to sites that only are accessible if you pay with credit card, or to sites that have already been closed down by the police or the Internet provider.

2.4 Child Pornography: What do we mean?

Child pornography is defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 34) and, in particular, the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The definition includes any

representation of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.

Sir William Utting's (1997) report on the safeguards for children living away from home (commissioned by the UK Government) and Catherine Itzin in several articles, both suggest that exposure to pornography 'desensitises children'. Research undertaken with child sexual abusers has shown that both adult pornography and child pornography are often used as part of the 'grooming process' in lowering the child's resistance and as a means of facilitating the abuse. Research has also shown that some sex offenders will overcome their own internal inhibitions by viewing child pornography. There is some material which suggests that one of the most critical functions of child pornography is as a reinforcement and justification of the will to abuse. This contradicts the discredited 'cathartic hypotheses' used by some commentators to suggest that the use of child pornography will help potential abusers control their urges to abuse a child.

Abusers often use images in which children have been forced to smile so it can be claimed, especially with younger children, that they are "having fun" and have given "consent". This allows sexual abusers to manipulate their victims.

Utting, Itzin and many other commentators also suggest that child pornography can be used to "entrap children further". This entails the belief on the child's part that their involvement in the original sexual act might mean that they too have committed an offence that can be used as emotional coercion to force the child to commit further sexual aggression. This is relevant in cases where the child has been coerced into sexually aggressive behaviour against other children for purposes of producing child pornography. Alternatively, the child might be afraid that if the person possessing the image were to show it to their parents or friends that it would cause huge embarrassment or upset.

"Whilst there are probably some individuals who limit their activity to collecting child pornography, in the majority of cases known to law enforcement, child protection agencies and non-governmental organisations, the production and use of child pornography is one practice within a repertoire of child sexual abuse".

2.5 The overlooked problems of "child erotica"

Parallel to the illegal images of child sexual abuse which are found on the Internet there are thousands of images which is often referred to as "child erotica". These so-called "child erotica" websites manage to avoid legal sanctions in most countries by promoting themselves as "artistic sites", other terms used cover this kind of material, e.g. "soft child porn", or "posing pictures". These sites often contain images of children posing half-dressed or naked with an emphasis on sexualising the child either overtly or covertly. Other pictures found on the Internet provide evidence that some of the children exploited by child erotica sites have been sexually abused for the purposes of illegal child pornography.

Child erotica sites usually advertise legal images of children on the opening page with the promise of more 'hard core' child pornographic material available through payment via a credit card. Save the Children believes that the easy access to child erotica could lead to an increase in children and young people being sexually abused and exploited. This development is linked to the commercial sexual exploitation of children where the economic rule of supply and demand suggests that more children will be used to fulfill this demand.

"Child Erotica" or "Posing pictures" challenge the general debate about censorship on the Internet. This is likely to be the reason why international definitions of illegal child pornography (from both Interpol and Council of Europe) do not include this kind of material. This legal vacuum means the trading of "child erotica" remains a legal activity in most countries. One Save the Children Hotline estimates that around one fourth of referrals from member of the public concern websites exhibiting "legal child erotica".

Co-operation between the Credit Card Company VISA and Save the Children (explained in the section "commercial aspects of child pornography") is a new initiative. Save the Children recommends that self-regulation initiatives are undertaken which limit the circulation of "child erotica" material. However the limited number of self-regulation schemes suggests that legislation is required in this area and more work is needed to solve the definitional problems posed by this material.

2.6 Child pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation of children

Child pornography is also linked to sex tourism and trafficking where seizures of child pornography have confirmed the children's accounts of being abused in such circumstances. Many of the detected sex tourism cases include seizures of child pornography. Digital cameras and video cam recorders have made life easier for abusers who wish to make a record of their criminal behaviour for private entertainment or commercial gain. This record of the crime can then be used for their own gratification when they return home or can be exchanged with other sexual abusers as means of gaining acceptance in child sexual abuse networks. It can also be used as a commercial commodity to be sold to other sex offenders and as a means of gaining other abusive images. This often compulsive collecting behaviour usually means however that there is evidence that law enforcement agencies can use in a court of law against the perpetrator which strengthens the child's chances of obtaining justice and protection.

"Some of these Russian sites make \$30.000 Dollars a month. In the distorted Russian economy, just one month is enough to survive on for years"

The use of Internet chat rooms gives sexual abusers the opportunity to come into contact with children without the abusers having to reveal their identity to the child. This allows abusers to groom children in such a way that leaves them open to actual abuse or engage them in an online abusive relationship. Research by the University of New Hampshire found that one in five children between the ages of 10 and 17 received a sexual solicitation over the

Internet in the last year. One in thirty-three received an aggressive solicitation - someone who asked to meet them, called them on the telephone, or sent them regular mail, money, or gifts.

3. THE VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ON THE INTERNET

3.1 Identification of the victims

The challenge for law enforcement and child protection agencies is how to trace and identify the children who are being abused for the production of pornographic material. This is of vital importance so victims can be offered therapeutic help and support to guide them through the trauma of being abused and having knowledge that images of their abuse will be in continuous circulation on the Internet. Once on the Internet, a single image of sexual assault of a child may circulate in cyber-space forever. The implications are that the child's image may circulate indefinitely and that for the child s/he will feel abused every time the image is downloaded onto a computer. Save the Children believes it is of the utmost importance that this issue is addressed. It is a matter of grave concern for Save the Children that so few children abused for the production and distribution of child pornography have been identified and traced. Current knowledge about victims and the circumstances under which they were abused is sparse and not coordinated. In the highly publicized "Wonderland" case only 16 of the 1, 263 children sexually abused by members of the network have been identified.

3.2 Reactions of children who have been abused within the context of child pornography

There are problems in distinguishing the various effects on a child who has been subjected to sexual exploitation and subsequently knows that the images will be distributed on the Internet:

- There are effects of the abuse per se.
- There are the effects of being photographed as a victim of sexual abuse.
- There are the effects of the child's knowledge about the exchange of the photographs.

In the background paper to the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, John.

Carr writes:

"However, even where it has been possible to identify a victim, the chances of being able to help the child to recover from the trauma of the initial involvement in the abuse can be seriously compromised if the child learns or comes to believe that images of them engaged in the abusive behavior might have been scanned, or converted into a digital format in some other way, for storage on a computer or for transmission between computers e.g. over the Internet. This, in effect, makes the image part of a permanent public record. It could suddenly appear on the screen of their next-door neighbor or classmates. It may become part of the stock that is offered repeatedly for sale by online pornography sites or other types of real world businesses dealing in child pornography". The children must not be constantly reminded of the abuse they have suffered by different authorities or agencies. Authorities and children's advocates need to co- ordinate their services in order to protect the child from having to repeat the traumatic story to a number of adults repeatedly.

The existence of a camera in the abuse situation may mean several things to the child as suggested below. Evidence suggests that the recording of sexual abuse in child pornographic images aggravates and prolongs victimisation of the child.

3.3 The collection and use of data

Law enforcement agencies in several European countries are collecting child pornographic pictures found on the Internet in databases. In a recent Parliamentary answer on the subject of setting up a child pornography data bank (2003/C28E/119) Commissioner Vitorino states:

“The Commission.... (Is supporting)...the project ‘International Child Exploitation Database Feasibility Study’ under the STOP II Programme Committee. This project presented by the United Kingdom in collaboration with Italy and Germany aims to assess the feasibility of an international database with images of child sexual exploitation, sourced from the Internet or any other pictorial systems. The feasibility study will examine whether and how the international law enforcement community could contribute to feed images of children being used or engaged in sexual activities or description of such images into a central database in order to assist in both victims and suspect identification. Europol is fully associated to the project as well as the other member states, Interpol and the group eight most industrialized countries.”

"The fact that the camera is there changes the abusive behaviour of the abuser. A certain script is followed; a script that often seems to increase the violence of the abuse. The presence of a camera enhances the powerlessness of the child in the abusive situation, diminishing the child's ability to interact or to say 'No' or 'Stop' The child is performing for an audience, is given orders to smile etc., thus increasing the child's sense of complicity..."

Whilst the aim is undoubtedly laudable, Save the Children has a number of reservations about such projects. Firstly, there is considerable duplication of effort, such that libraries of images are being created in Sweden, Germany and the UK. This proliferation cannot be in children's interests - since their desire is for as few people as possible to see these images.

Secondly there are important dilemmas linked to the use of such data. For example, it is probable that courts in future will need more data evidence in order for a jury to find that child pornographic pictures seized are pictures of a real child, and not manipulated pictures. Identified children may be put under extreme pressure knowing that their personal data will be revealed in the court, in addition this may lead to intrusive press contact.

3.4 Save the Children recommends that:

National Governments should fund research into the reactions and treatment of victims of child pornography. It is essential that governments raise societal awareness about the trauma children suffer through the production and distribution of child pornography.

More resources need to be made available to police and social services to train front line child protection workers about investigating possible links to the production of child pornography in child abuse investigations.

Assessment and therapy should take into account the trauma attached to the special circumstances surrounding the filming of the sexual abuse and its posting on the Internet.

Databases should be used with caution and with rigorous restrictions regarding who has access to them.

4. AWARENESS AND SAFETY FOR CHILDREN USING INTERNET

4.1 Online chat

- In recent years sexual abusers have become skilled at using chat rooms to contact children. There are cases coming before the courts where men have been arrested after arranging to meet children they have befriended in Internet chat rooms or via message services. Usually the abusers pose as young men or boys as a means of gaining the child's confidence by lying about their age and sharing secrets that encourage trust. Eventually they suggest a meeting. Invariably the child has kept this cyber-friendship a secret from parents and friends. The anonymity of the Internet allows the child to construct a fantasy friendship and play it out in isolated security - until the friend stops being an e-mail address and becomes a person they are going to meet.
- Potential perpetrators can use the anonymity of Internet chat to come into contact with children and this raises serious concerns for their safety.
- Actual cases of abuse show that the anonymity of the chat room are open to exploitation by potential perpetrators who are skilled in making contact with vulnerable children and especially young teenagers. If a potential perpetrator establishes contact with a child through a chat room, it can be difficult for the child to see through this person's manipulation, the so-called "grooming process". The potential perpetrator will act as a friend and create confidence and trust while planning the process leading to the abuse. It is obvious that the difficulties of controlling such relations are enormous. One of the solutions to problem posed by chat danger is therefore to raise awareness among children. The chat providers also have an important responsibility in securing the best monitoring systems and logging procedures.
- The recent development of mobile phones is another area that should be closely observed because Internet chat and SMS will probably be closely linked.

4.2 Save the Children recommends

- That all chat-providers be aware of the different ways of creating safe chat, so as to monitor chat rooms for children and to ensure logging of all conversations.
- Awareness raising efforts are crucial and governments should be responsible for implementing efforts that teach children to be aware of the potential dangers of online contact.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The European Union and the work of the Commission

- Save the Children welcomes the Framework decision by member states of the EU to combat child pornography and harmonise sentences for the sexual exploitation of children. Under the agreement all member states have to adjust national law to protect all children up to the age of 18 from abuse through child pornography. This also applies to so-called "virtual pornography", lifelike images of children.
- Save the Children welcomes the European Commission's engagement in protecting children through the Safer Internet Action Plan and welcomes the continuation of the programme from 2003 to 2004. Save the Children urges the Commission to continue their role in supporting European Hotline work. Greater prominence should be given to children's rights and the issue of child pornography on the Internet in the accession countries.

5.2 National Governments

- Save the Children calls for a long-term commitment to resolve the root causes of child sexual abuse and reinforce child protection initiatives in relation to abuse via the Internet.
- Save the Children recommends that policy makers acknowledge the complexity of the problem. Child sexual exploitation is unlikely to be efficiently prevented unless the diversity of the people who sexually exploit children is fully taken into account.
- Save the Children urges governments to fully implement the Yokohama Agenda for Action, and in so doing, to recognize the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse of under 18's in its totality. We call for a move from public acknowledgement and development of plans to concrete interventions against those whom directly as well as indirectly sexually exploit children via the production and distribution of child pornography.
- Save the Children urges all national governments to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.
- National Governments should fund research into the reactions and treatment of victims of child pornography. It is essential that governments raise societal awareness about the trauma children suffer through the production and distribution of child pornography.
- More resources need to be made available to police and social services to train front line child protection workers about investigating possible links to the production of child pornography in child abuse investigations.
- Save the Children recommends that national Governments take action to co- ordinate child protection services similar to the British Government's Task Force initiative.
- Justice and compensation to victims of sexual abuse remains an unresolved issue to be dealt with within a judicial system that takes account of the rights of the child.
- Children have the right to special protection against sexual exploitation up to the age of 18. The legal age of consent shall be separated from the upper age of protection against sexual exploitation. A child under 18

should not be considered as able to consent to engagement in prostitution, pornography and/or trafficking for sexual purposes. The criminal responsibility should rest solely with the perpetrator.

- Morphed images that depict a child in a violent and/or explicit sexual activity contribute to a conception of the child as a sexual object and is a violation of the rights of the child. Possession of these images should therefore be prohibited in the same way as possession of pictures of child sexual abuse.
- Awareness raising efforts regarding chat safety are crucial and governments should be responsible for implementing efforts that teach children to be aware of the potential dangers of chat rooms.

5.3 Law Enforcement

- Continuing formal and informal co-operation between law enforcement agencies to facilitate cross border co-operation is needed. Interpol and Europol have a vital role to play. This is a criminal offence that should be given the same priority as the work towards illegal drugs and organized crime.
- Save the Children welcomes the growing knowledge base amongst law enforcement agencies about child sexual abuse in relation to the Internet and encourages the further training of specialized child protection team.
- Resources and expertise still remain a problem in most European countries in regard to combating child pornography. These resources need to be made available and co-operation with CEEC countries needs to be strengthened
- Save the Children supports uniformity of penalties in EU and CEEC countries - as proposed in the draft framework decision on child pornography on the Internet (for EU member states)
- Law enforcement staff should be conversant with the Convention on the Rights of the Child when dealing with victims of sexual abuse.
- Lawyers, judges and other judicial staff need training on this issue.

5.4 Internet Service Providers

- Save the Children recognizes the vital role that Internet Service Providers have in protecting children on the Internet and urges Governments to implement legislation where self regulation has failed.
- Save the Children urges self-regulatory Codes of Conduct be introduced at the European and National level on child protection.
- Save the Children encourages co-operation between National hotlines, law enforcement and Internet Service Providers.
- Save the Children recommends that other private sector companies to follow the Visa ethical stance Save the Children urges all chat-providers to be aware of the different ways of creating safe chat, so as to monitor chat rooms for children and to ensure logging of conversations.
- Internet service providers need training on children's rights and child protection issues in relation to abuse via the Internet.

5.5 NGOs and the legal context on facilitating Hotline Work

Save the Children encourages co-operation between other NGO's working on the issue of Internet related abuse. Resources need to be made available to NGO's running Hotlines. NGOs working in this field should be encouraged to join the international hotline network of INHOPE to increase cross border collaboration. Staff working on Hotline's should be carefully vetted through appropriate recruitment and child protection procedures. The legal context under which Hotlines operate within the NGO sector needs to be clarified and endorsed by the statutory sector.

6. CONCLUSION

It cannot be argued that offences against children are unacceptable and should not be tolerated. The crime of child pornography, the production, possession and proliferation of such materials continues to raise concerns among legislators, law enforcement agencies, state and non-state actors both on national and international levels. The fact that in the recent years the crime has reached enormous dimensions, not only in Europe but worldwide, proves once again that children are at great risk. With the improvement of the legislation, a visible step forwards is expected to be made in the sphere of police cooperation. Enhanced joint operations between national police authorities and European Police Office should seriously pursue child pornography offenders and reduce the production and dissemination practices. Child pornography offenders and their rings have been investigated and many of them prosecuted. Since Europol has been made a major Law enforcement agency having analytical and information exchange responsibilities, conducting of the joint operation should be easier and more effective. Since child pornography materials have often been produced and disseminated for commercial purposes, payment with credit cards for illegal products should be strictly regulated and controlled as well. Public awareness campaigns should produce materials and tips for people. They should focus on parents to highlight the dangers and how to avoid them – using search filters on their personal computers or being more vigilant with the websites their children visit.