



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT (ISPCAN)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE USA
EXPERTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD GATHER IN DENVER, COLORADO, U.S. TO IMPROVE
RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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Denver, CO – The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) is hosting its first round-table at its secretariat in Denver, Colorado, U.S. The event, *ISPCAN Round-Table 2011: Child Sexual Abuse, a Review of Practical Interventions from an International Perspective*, is scheduled for May 5-7, 2011. Child sexual abuse is a major worldwide public health issue with significant but preventable adverse effects on the child's physical and mental health and on national economic productivity. The purpose of the round-table is to better address how different countries and cultures can assist children who have been sexually abused.

Child sexual abuse occurs most commonly within the context of the child's own family and in all cultures - regardless of economic, political, cultural, or language factors. However, these distinct factors are relevant when it comes to providing resources to assist victims of child sexual abuse, whether it is the production and dissemination of training materials and high-quality therapy approaches or providing models for legal frameworks to support child witnesses or deter child abusers at the local and country level.

Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, LCSW, an internationally renowned expert and President-Elect of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, is one of the selected multidisciplinary experts representing the fields of law, judiciary, medical and human/social services who will gather at the ISPCAN Secretariat on The Children's Hospital campus in Denver, Colorado, U.S., to exchange ideas, examine published literature from various countries and ultimately define a foundation for better cross-cultural approaches to child sexual abuse prevention and treatment.

This ISPCAN event will also serve as a unique opportunity for this diverse group of international experts to build networks and partnerships across the gulf of language, culture and politics.

"The complexity and cultural nuances of the problem," stated Dr. Irene Intebi, ISPCAN President, "make it critical to convene representatives from different professional arenas and global regions to enable a serious dialogue. We are pleased to launch the first of many forums at our headquarters, resulting in a tangible resource for trainers, administrators, advocates, jurists and others working in the field."

An evening reception will be held on May 5 for invited individuals throughout metro Denver and the participants of the round-table.

ISPCAN, founded in 1977, is the only multidisciplinary international organization that brings together a worldwide cross-section of committed professionals to work towards the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect and exploitation globally.

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