Our Mission:
To support individuals and organizations working to protect children from abuse and neglect worldwide.
Message from the Leadership

Dear ISPCAN Members,

ISPCAN’s activities in 2003 reflect our strong desire to strengthen the professional community working to prevent Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN). ISPCAN is increasingly well-placed and supported by international experts in the field to provide promising practice models and guidelines, key research findings, experience and exchange of perspectives, as well as to foster peer networking and collaborative projects. These programs support our members in their work as practitioners and researchers and provide essential information for the development of effective policies, legislation, professional education and training, and community development.

In 2003, ISPCAN took several important steps to strengthen its benefits to members, as well as to offer general resources to a broader constituency of child protection professionals. The most important accomplishment in 2003 was the high level of support we provided to members organizing training and education in their countries and regions. ISPCAN provided both financial support as well as professional leadership through the active participation of our council members and staff. ISPCAN supported endorsed events organized by members in Argentina, Brazil, Estonia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Poland, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and the West Bank/Gaza Strip. Regional events were held in Poland (European Conference) and India (South Asia Workshop), complemented by workshops to develop Russian-speaking and Arab professional networks. During the past year, considerable member effort was also placed in organizing key events for 2004, including the first Arab Regional Conference in Jordan (February); the 4th African Regional Conference in Nigeria (March); and the 15th ISPCAN International Congress in Australia (September).

ISPCAN’s increasing successes have been made possible by the fruitful and active partnerships being established with our members, both as individuals as well as through a number of National Societies operating throughout the world. Each of our training events reflects a partnership between a core of ISPCAN members and a National or Regional Network, collectively working to accomplish training and/or education efforts relevant to each event’s local and regional professionals. In several instances, ISPCAN’s initial efforts have fostered additional national or sub-regional trainings or child abuse public awareness campaigns. Members are undertaking the development and improvement of national and local community programs and policies within their countries for and with and their colleagues—all of which create better services and protection for children.

ISPCAN members and their colleagues, as individuals, as multi-disciplinary teams, and through national professional societies, are building on the work of our predecessors. Collectively, they are doing more than ever before! ISPCAN’s leadership has never witnessed such a high level of sustained commitment and dedication by so many members taking place around the world simultaneously.

In addition to our own events, ISPCAN has initiated or is an active participant in several important international efforts. These efforts include the current UN Study on Violence Against Children; the ISPCAN/WHO Intersectoral Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect; and other related research and resource development programs. ISPCAN faculty members also have participated in projects requiring their expert advice and feedback by UNICEF, the World Health Organization and, for the first time, the World Bank.

To meet these growing obligations, ISPCAN expanded its staff in 2003. Specifically, the Secretariat added staff capacity in the areas of Congress and conference planning, training and resource development, all of which are high priorities for the society. We believe that many of our members will realize the benefits of these investments in the coming year.

We applaud the commitment and contributions of our members. In return, we pledge to continue to provide you the highest level of service in supporting your important efforts to protect children.

Marcellina Mian, MD, President
Kimberly Svevo, CAE, Executive Director

Who We Are—ISPCAN’s Membership

ISPCAN’s membership consists of over 1,600 professionals working to prevent all forms of child abuse and neglect worldwide. ISPCAN members work in a variety of fields, including child protective services, medicine, social work, mental health, research, law enforcement, education, sociology and public policy. This diverse membership reflects our belief that an effective response to child maltreatment requires a multidisciplinary approach.

ISPCAN is continually working to increase the value of membership and the support of its members through innovative programs and dissemination of current information on child abuse and neglect (CAN). Members continue to enjoy a monthly subscription to Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal, and to receive the official newsletter of ISPCAN, The LINK, three times a year. Increasingly, selected materials, such as key articles in The LINK and journal abstracts, are made available in multiple languages.

With members in over 100 countries, ISPCAN is committed to supporting the diverse needs of professionals working in different economic and social conditions. Students are also encouraged to join, as an entry point into the professional community. ISPCAN offers a two-tiered membership fee structure for members from developed and developing countries, encouraging wider participation in the global network of ISPCAN members, across national and financial barriers. ISPCAN also provides two-year developing country complimentary membership awards to a number of people each year, providing many professionals access to valuable information to sustain and improve their child protection efforts.

ISPCAN membership facilitates peer-to-peer learning. Networking among members via the list-serv, the on-line membership directory and Virtual Issues Discussions (VID) creates an international community of experts supporting one another in their work to eliminate child maltreatment around the world.
ISPCAN Activities

The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) is a non-profit organization that works to prevent the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children by supporting individuals and organizations working to protect children worldwide. ISPCAN believes that only through effective treatment and prevention efforts can child abuse and neglect be significantly reduced and eliminated from society.

It is our ongoing goal to meet the needs of multidisciplinary CAN professionals and to help strengthen their efforts by providing them with critical information on child abuse and neglect issues through education, training, skills and knowledge development, related research initiatives and intersectoral and interdisciplinary professional cooperation. All our efforts are committed to achieving the best interests of the child.

Publications, Research & Information

ISPCAN seeks to identify and report the most promising and significant research and practice models being implemented by professionals around the world through a variety of publication outlets. The dissemination of ISPCAN’s publications remains a key source for members to learn about the most current developments in responding to child abuse and neglect and to stay connected with other professionals in their field.

ISPCAN’s flagship publication, Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal, is a peer reviewed journal published monthly, providing high-quality, international, multidisciplinary information on child abuse and neglect. One of the most highly cited and influential journals in the field, it is a consistently strong resource, publishing over 120 papers each year.

To provide topical reports on specific child abuse and neglect issues faced by members, ISPCAN also publishes The LINK. Offering an exchange of information on challenges and best practices around the world, as well as updates on ISPCAN activities, The LINK helps members remain connected to the Society and to their international, professional colleagues.

ISPCAN produces World Perspectives on Child Abuse, a bi-annual report of international information on the status of child maltreatment. Based primarily on information from informed professionals representing a wide range of countries, it offers a unique view of the state of child maltreatment policy and practice throughout the world. Data collection for the Sixth Edition began in 2003. The publication is scheduled for release in September 2004.

ISPCAN also makes use of available technology to strengthen the resources we are able to offer members. Specifically, our website allows members to download our publications, participate in a moderated listserv, and contribute to periodic Virtual Issues Discussions (VID) on specific child abuse prevention topics. The development of these electronic resources allows ISPCAN to more easily promote connections, information sharing, and mutual support among members who otherwise might never have come into direct contact.

ISPCAN Membership by Region

- North America 46%
- South America 3%
- Europe
  - Western Europe 20%
  - Eastern Europe 4%
- Africa 5%
- Asia/Pacific 11%
- Australia/Oceania 8%
- Middle East 2%

ISPCAN Membership by Discipline

- Medicine 23%
- Psychology 22%
- Social Work 14%
- Psychiatry 5%
- Law 4%
- Other 10%
- Child Protective Services 16%
- Education 6%
2003 Highlights & Accomplishments

In 2003, ISPCAN’s leadership, members and staff worked together to bring stronger services and programs to ISPCAN members, as well as the broader child abuse and neglect field. ISPCAN’s vision is to continuously increase our value as a key resource in the areas of information dissemination, education, training and networking. Throughout our history, ISPCAN has used these strategies to enhance the value and impacts of local efforts to improve professional training and to raise awareness of the devastating impacts of child abuse. Our challenge is to continue to develop and strengthen our core activities, while expanding support through the development of new initiatives.

Further, through our services and activities, ISPCAN plays a unique and important role in helping individuals working to prevent child abuse and neglect to avoid professional isolation and to overcome the financial and geographical barriers that can minimize the ability to share knowledge. The dynamic ISPCAN international community offers accessible local opportunities by supporting member-led education, training and resource offerings for professionals where they live. Further, ISPCAN’s commitment to insuring full participation of a diverse array of professionals in these meetings enriches the pool of knowledge available to all those who attend. ISPCAN’s travel scholarships to educational events and honorary developing country (DC) memberships provide professionals with limited resources a unique opportunity to fully participate in a professional society.

ISPCAN’S Web Page - A Growing Resource

ISPCAN developed a variety of new resources on its website in 2003, including:

- A searchable reference list of training materials
- ISPCAN/IWHO Intersectoral Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect (Draft)
- Sample presentation materials developed by ISPCAN Councillors and leaders
- Electronic versions of The LINK in three languages (English, Spanish and French)
- Updated information on ISPCAN training events, congresses, and conferences.

Through its special Members-Only Area, the ISPCAN website continues to offer additional benefits, including increased access to ISPCAN publications, a searchable Membership Directory, professional position papers, and periodic Virtual Issues Discussions (VID). In addition, the public area of the website serves as a resource for all individuals interested in child abuse and neglect prevention worldwide.

Virtual Issues Discussion (VID): The Case of Mandatory Reporting

First introduced in December 2002, the Virtual Issues Discussion (VID) has offered ISPCAN members the opportunity to participate in on-line, in-depth discussions led by a core group of experts on a given topic. Building on our past success with this strategy, ISPCAN hosted a VID in 2003 which addressed the debate surrounding the values and drawbacks of mandatory child abuse reporting requirements. Originally scheduled to take place over a three day period, this VID was extended to a full week due to the high level of member interest. The discussion was facilitated by experts from Malaysia, the Netherlands, South Africa, and the USA, with 122 participants from over 25 countries.

Member LISTSERV: Members Supporting Members

Over 600 messages on approximately 200 topics were posted to the ISPCAN member listserver in 2003, marking a tripling of activity from the previous year. Key topics discussed on the LISTSERV included:

- allegations of child sexual abuse
- child protection services
- false allegations of child sexual abuse
- mandated reporting
- use of polygraphs
- youth cyber-exploitation
- domestic violence

The LISTSERV is available to members to discuss CAN-related issues, share resources, request peer consultation on case issues, network and collaborate. Serving as an increasingly valuable vehicle for ISPCAN members to support each other’s efforts in the field, the listerv offers a simple and effective means of communicating directly with the international, professional community.

Online Access to the Journal: A Knowledge Base on Demand

Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal is now available on-line to all members. An example of the way ISPCAN is harnessing available technology to add value to its member resources, on-line access to the journal allows members to easily view both current and archived copies of the journal, enhancing their ability to quickly find the information they need.

Increase in Developing Country Honorary Membership Awards

With support from donors and partners, ISPCAN increased the level of support for Honorary Membership, awarding 95 Developing Country Honorary Memberships in 2003, nearly twice the number of the prior year. The program is designed to extend ISPCAN memberships to leading professionals who are active in child abuse and neglect prevention in developing countries.

Each recipient receives full ISPCAN membership benefits, in most cases for two years, including a complimentary subscription to Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal. The 95 professionals receiving this honor in 2003 are listed below:

2002/2003 Recipients

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<td>Mazhar Ali (Pakistan)</td>
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2003 Highlights & Accomplishments

Training Events
ISPCAN was pleased to sponsor the following training events in 2003, working to increase capacity, expertise, and professional networks for CAN prevention.

International Training Projects of ISPCAN (ITPI)

Argentina - June
Multi-disciplinary CAN Team Building

Brazil - March and October
Multi-disciplinary Training Seminars on Child and Adolescent Abuse and Neglect

Estonia - March and April
Multidisciplinary Seminar on Child Abuse and Domestic Violence; Forum on “Healthy Environments for Children: Life without Violence; Workshop for Estonian and Latvian Professionals.

India - February
Multidisciplinary Training Programme on Child Abuse and Neglect

Kenya - July
The Third Multi-disciplinary Team Building Training

Malaysia - May
Country Training Project on Child Abuse and Capacity Building

Poland - January, February and March
Workshop on Child Sexual Abuse, Diagnosis and Methods of Intervention; Series of Training Seminars for Policeman on Child Abuse Intervention, Recognition and Interviewing Methods

South Africa - November
The Children’s Bill: Legislative Developments (National Workshop)

Thailand - June and November
Building a Caring Society for Child Care and Protection Projects

Other Sponsored Events

India - November
South Asian Workshop on Child Abuse and Neglect

Turkey - May
Multidisciplinary Approach to Child Abuse and Neglect

USA - February, May and June

West Bank/Gaza Strip - January and February
Child Abuse and Neglect in Schools: Identification, Protection of Maltreated Children, Crisis Intervention and Reporting

2003 European Regional Conference
Nearby 700 delegates from six continents gathered at the August 2003, ISPCAN 9th European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Warsaw, Poland. Delegates learned about new developments in both practice and research, and shared their experiences and knowledge in addressing child maltreatment. The event was organized by Nobody’s Children Foundation, ISPCAN’s Conference Partner in Poland.

One of the largest professional education efforts offered to child abuse professionals in the region, the Warsaw Conference included presentations on the relationship between spouse abuse and child maltreatment and evidence-based practice in treating child abuse and neglect. Conference plenary sessions, led by an international cadre of experts, focused on a variety of practice and policy concerns, and a special session reviewed and compared social campaigns on child maltreatment prevention around the world.

Delegates leveraged their time by holding unique special sessions with international colleagues. Special regional or organizational meetings included: Russian-speaking professionals (25) from ten Eastern European countries; ISPCAN National Partner organization leaders; project leaders for the International Training Programs by ISPCAN (ITPI) from Poland, Estonia, Latvia and South Africa; and Arab professionals from Bahrain, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

Almost 90% of the attendees who completed a post-conference survey rated the event very highly, indicating that they found the content of the plenary sessions and workshops “always or almost always” relevant to their work. The circulation of contact information for all attendees was viewed as particularly valuable in facilitating ongoing collaboration and information sharing and furthering CAN work back in delegates’ home countries.

Sponsored Scholar-Practitioners from Developing Countries
Over 100 scholars were sponsored in 2003 to attend ISPCAN Conferences and Training Events in Poland (European Conference), India (South Asia Workshop) and the USA (APSAC Colloquium and San Diego Conference on Child Maltreatment). Collectively, this support totaled approximately US $29,000 (included in the section below) and was made possible through grants provided by the Alcoa Foundation, Children at Risk/Global Ministries, the Oak Foundation, and UNICEF.

These scholarships are granted to committed professionals working in developing countries and who are considered experts by their peers in leading local efforts in the area of child abuse prevention. The scholarship program is an opportunity for these professionals to further their knowledge and to network with other professionals internationally. Funded scholars take the benefits of the educational experience back to their communities to lead further local/national training and support of programs in their countries. Scholars receiving over US $500 in 2003 are listed below:

Fidel Arevalo (Guatemala)
Remo Atanasovski (Macedonia)
Laile Balode (Latvia)
S. M. Colomboage (Sri Lanka)
Sibnath Deb (India)
Malina Dimitrova Slavova (Bulgaria)
Peter Ebigo (Nigeria)
Lemme Haldre (Estonia)
Altin Haziaj (Albania)
Mohd Sham Kasim (Malaysia)
Maria Keller-Hamelia (Poland)
Ragne Keple (Estonia)
Karolina Kostadinova - Lembanova (Macedonia)
Rita Kozlovska (Moldova)
A.M.A. Wanasanta Kumara (Sri Lanka)
Harieta Manolova (Bulgaria)
Mary Marret (Malaysia)
Muhammad Moez (Pakistan)
Riffat Naeem (Pakistan)
Ivan Pawlow (Bulgaria)
Elena Popa (Moldova)
Malle Roomeldi (Estonia)
Sirje Saar (Estonia)
Bijaya Sainju (Nepal)
Diksha Shehi (Albania)
Agness Sdelevskova (Latvia)
Agnese Stresu (Latvia)
Gatis Vackieus (Latvia)
P.K. Vinayak (India)
Naeem Zafar (Pakistan)

Supporting the International Community

During 2003, ISPCAN disbursed over US $190,000 to organizations and individuals (through scholarships) working to prevent child abuse and neglect worldwide. These resources facilitated member-led education and training programs in 13 countries. This support enabled and strengthened local programs and increased capacity building among local professionals and multi-disciplinary teams. ISPCAN’s capacity to provide these resources was the result of generous funding from the Alcoa Foundation, Children at Risk/Global Ministries, ICCO: Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation, the Oak Foundation, and UNICEF.
Partnerships & Collaborations

ISPCAN is a more active organization today than it was ten, even five years ago. We are a stronger organization with more capacity and more far-reaching goals, primarily due to the increased involvement and support we have received from our international partners. We want to give special recognition to three organizations who are indispensable to ISPCAN: UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Oak Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland). Their support has been invaluable to our work and we look forward to building even stronger relationships with these partners in the coming year. We are also appreciative of the ongoing and important support of other major national and international funders including: ICCO: Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation; Global Ministries/Children-at-Risk; and the USA Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

As a professional, non-profit society, ISPCAN has a modest financial base. Therefore, we depend on our partners with greater resources to leverage our potential to develop the effectiveness of professionals in the field serving children and families. Thanks to the increasing support of our partners, collaborators, and sponsors, ISPCAN is making significant progress in training professionals throughout the world.

The support of several new partners, such as the USA Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Canada, as well as other important organizations such as World Vision-International, Save the Children (UK), and several of the regional and country offices of UNICEF, the International Labor Organization, and WHO, are of increasing significance in supporting important ISPCAN-led child abuse and neglect efforts in countries around the world.

ISPCAN’s strength has always been the vast knowledge, experience, and willingness of its members to contribute to peer education and training through educational events and publications. Our members are also an important source of financial contributions — member donations are significantly higher than even three to four years ago. These contributions have been designated for specific programs as well as for overall operational funding. We appreciate the confidence the membership has shown in our organization.

ISPCAN is evolving into an increasingly stronger and more influential global resource for our members, for other affiliated organizations, and for international agencies with whom we collaborate. We are collaborating with national professional societies (ISPCAN National Partners) and major international organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank to lend our unique experience, knowledge, and expertise to their programs and efforts, while they increasingly invest in and participate in our work.

Together with our partners, ISPCAN faces future challenges in a much stronger position. On behalf of children throughout the world, let us gain strength in our collaboration and continue striving toward a child-safe future.

Barbara L. Bonner, PhD
President-Elect

National Partner Program

A key component of ISPCAN’s partnerships and collaborations with child abuse and neglect prevention professionals and organizations around the world is its National Partner Program. The National Partner Program identifies existing national professional organizations focusing on child abuse, as well as ISPCAN members interested in creating such an organization. Through this program, ISPCAN works to establish strong links among these organizations to create a more effective and powerful voice for child protection worldwide.

To that end, the National Partner Program encourages efforts to expand training, education, and public awareness in each organization’s respective country and region, while serving as a catalyst for more effective global cooperation and action. The program’s strength lies in the strong commitment of the members of both ISPCAN and its National Partners, who willingly share knowledge and resources with each other, while remaining open to learning from their colleagues.

The following 16 organizations were involved in the program in 2003:

- Against Child Abuse Ltd. (ACA) Hong Kong
- Association Française d’Information et de Recherche sur l’Enfance Maltraitée (AFIREM) France
- African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Ethiopia
- African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Nigeria
- African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Uganda
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) USA
- British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN) United Kingdom
- Cameroon Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CASPCAN) Republic of Cameroon
- Danish Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (DASPCAN) Denmark
- German Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN) Germany
- Japanese Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (JaSPCAN) Japan
- Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children (MAPC) Malaysia
- National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) Australia
- National Organization for Prevention of Child Abuse (NOPCA) Belize
- Nordic Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NASPCAN) Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden
- South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCAN) South Africa
Donors and Volunteers

ISPCAN recognizes and greatly appreciates all donations of resources and personal time contributed in 2003 to our organization for various child abuse and neglect prevention programs by family, private and corporate foundations, government bodies, international agencies, institutions and individual members and volunteers. The generous support from these important partners and contributors strengthens ISPCAN programs, as well as locally organized member initiatives and efforts to combat child abuse, neglect and exploitation. Thank you once again.

ISPCAN Honorary Ambassadors

(Contributions of US $50,000 & Above)

Desmond Runyan
Henry Plum Law
John Leventhal
Continental Airlines

CISCO Systems

Christian Akiwowo

US $500 to $2,499)

Donors

Corporate
Individual &

ISPCAN

Remote Access

Myths

Projects

Awards, Guidelines, Membership

Programs 14%

Research 4%

Funding 4%

Congress and Conferences 21%

Developing Countries Training 27%

Investments, Other** 1%

Other = Congress and Conferences, Interests/ Investments, Miscellaneous

Royalties 14%

Memberships 12%

Grants 68%

Financial Data (Selected)

We are pleased to report to the membership that ISPCAN revenues for 2003 were substantially higher than in previous years.

This increased revenue results largely from targeted activity by staff and Board members to attract and secure generous funding grants from private donors such as the Oak Foundation, Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Children at Risk (CAR), U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). ISPCAN gratefully acknowledges the support of these organizations which has enabled ISPCAN to maintain and enhance our child protection training programs worldwide.

The on-going success of Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal has meant increased royalties to ISPCAN in the period — as a result of the contractual arrangements between ISPCAN and Elsevier Publishing. This was predominately from growth in revenue from electronic journal subscription.

Revenues from ISPCAN Membership dues have held steady— with individual ISPCAN membership running at approximately 1,600. ISPCAN Membership is US$115 (1 year) or $210 (2 years), with a substantial reductions for Developing Country* members at $50 (1 year) and $95 (2 years).

Income derived from interest on invested monies declined in 2003, in association with the low interest rate environment within the United States. Reserve funds have been invested in various securities with modest rates of return, under an investment policy giving weight to a high degree of capital preservation.

Financial Audit 2003

ISPCAN audited financial results for 2003: Current Assets at the end of 2003 were $1,103,029. Property and Equipment at Cost (minus depreciation) was $274,453. Total Assets were $1,137,482. At the end of 2003, Total Assets were $1,137,080 and Liabilities were $181,151, bringing ISPCAN’s year end Net Assets to $955,929. This is a net increase of $429,016. During 2003 a major commitment for funding was received from one of ISPCAN’s donors. Expenses related to this grant will be incurred over the period 2004 to 2006.

* Developing Country status is based on information from World Bank reports.

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ISPCAN Objectives

To increase awareness of the extent, the causes and possible solutions for all forms of child abuse.

To disseminate academic and clinical research to those in positions to enhance practice and improve policy.

To support international efforts to promote and protect the Rights of the Child.

To improve the quality of current efforts to detect, treat and prevent child abuse.

To facilitate the exchange of best practice standards being developed by ISPCAN members throughout the world.

To design and deliver comprehensive training programs to professionals and concerned volunteers engaged in efforts to treat and prevent child abuse.

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