



Philippines



Together we can  
protect the safety  
and freedom  
of our children.

THE PROBLEM

# FILIPINO CHILDREN ARE BEING EXPLOITED BY FOREIGN SEX OFFENDERS ONLINE

Facilitated by perpetrators in the Philippines, this trafficking crime puts children as young as two months old at risk.

Perpetrators in western countries lure Filipinos to sexually abuse children and to offer the images or videos of the exploitation online. Much of this abuse is livestreamed while sex offenders direct the crime remotely.

The earliest casework data on this then-emerging crime is from 2011. By 2019, the Philippines was recognized as a hotspot of online sexual exploitation of children.

Measuring the prevalence of the crime, the [Scale of Harm Study](#) reports that in 2022:



Nearly half a million Filipino children were trafficked to produce new child sexual exploitation material.



Nearly a quarter of a million adult Filipinos trafficked children to produce new child sexual exploitation material.

An [IJM study published in 2020](#) showed that based on casework data from 2010-2017, the median age of victims of online child sexual exploitation is 11 years old. Thirty-eight percent of local traffickers are parents, relatives, close family friends, or neighbors of the victim. Out of 44 case referrals with customer information, the majority of sex offenders were from the U.S., followed by Sweden and Australia.

OUR RESPONSE

# IJM WORKS WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND HOLD PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE



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



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



**AFTERCARE**  
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.

STRATEGIES AND WINS

# IJM FOCUSES ON FOUR KEY AREAS OF PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Our work is guided by a protection model developed from over 20 years of lessons learned with our partners on strengthening justice systems and enforcing the law to protect vulnerable children.

**CAPACITY-BUILDING**



We help build the capacity of the Philippine justice system in areas such as training, advocating for resources, and collaborating with the government in casework pertaining to online child sexual exploitation.

**RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- IJM released an updated [Video In-depth Disclosure Interview \(VIDI\) Framework](#), part of our ongoing work championing child-protective prosecution strategies.
- IJM Celebrates the [Historic Signing of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Recently Passed Anti-Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Law](#).

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



We join hands with groups such as churches, schools, and media. Together we activate communication channels to tell the stories that must be told and to advocate for the needed changes in policies and laws. So that there will be no place in our country where online child abuse can survive.

**RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- [IJM Supports The EARN IT Act Of 2023](#)
- [IJM Speaks to FinTech Firms at one of the Largest Fintech Festivals](#)

**SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP**



We support survivors as they advocate for change and transformation in the justice system and in our society with their powerful voices and stories.

**RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- [Philippine Survivor Network Launched](#) in February 2023
- [Philippine Survivors Urge EU Parliament And Council For Stronger Legislation](#)

**PARTNERSHIPS**



The work of justice is scaled through on-the-ground implementing partners who initiate projects and campaigns against the online sexual exploitation of children.

**RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- [Findings Of Scale Of Harm Prevalence Study Released](#)
- [IJM Works With Local Lawmakers to Strengthen Child Protection in Communities](#)
- [Celebrating A 2-Year IJM And U.S. State Department Collaboration In Creating A Network Of Care For Survivors](#)

IJM is a founding member of 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.



PICACC Founding Members: **Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Australian Federal Police, UK National Crime Agency, National Police of the Netherlands, and International Justice Mission.**



# The Survivor's Journey

*IJM walks alongside the survivor from the moment of rescue, all the way through the rehabilitation stage.*



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



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



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.



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

# Domains of Restoration

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

## 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.

## Mental Wellbeing

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

## Economic Empowerment

Ensuring that 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.

## Social Support

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

## Physical Wellbeing

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

# Survivor Voice

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



## 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.



## 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. [Learn More About Ruby's Story](#)

\*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 their 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 and friends at a shelter

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."

On February 19, 2020, Rosie's mother pleaded guilty to multiple offenses under the Philippines' Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, Cybercrime Prevention Act, Anti-Child Pornography Act, and Anti-Child Abuse Law. She was sentenced to 37 years in prison.

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.

*"We didn't have that at home, but now we have people we can turn to for help. People we can depend on."*

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.

## LOCAL AND GLOBAL IMPACT

# THE PHILIPPINES, A HOTSPOT FOR ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN, IS ALSO AT THE FOREFRONT OF A SCALABLE SOLUTION

### CASEWORK RESULTS: 2011-2023\*

358

Operations

1196

Victims and at-risk rescued/removed

346

Survivors Restored

372

Suspects Arrested

211

Perpetrators Convicted

\*Data from IJM-supported casework from 2011 to October 2023.

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.

### OUR LATEST RESOURCES



[Scale of Harm: Research Methods, Findings, and Recommendations: Estimating the Prevalence of Trafficking to Produce Child Sexual Exploitation Material in the Philippines \(September 2023\)](#)



[A guide to the utilization of Videotaped In-Depth Disclosure Interviews \(VIDI\) in online sexual exploitation of children cases \(Updated August 2023\)](#)

### EQUIPPING THE NATION FOR CHILD PROTECTION



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.

The Child Protection Compact Partnership is the fruit of a generous award from the U.S. government in support of the Philippine government. The grant enabled the Philippine government to effectively understand, respond to, and combat the online sexual exploitation of children. From 2017 to 2021, IJM led over 200 partners and government organizations in this transformative collaboration.

OUR OPERATIONS

# 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'S PROGRAM TO END ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

#### IJM Philippines

IJM's flagship program for collaborative casework and community protection

#### IJM's Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children


##### 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



**IJM's Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children**, led by Executive Director **John Tanagho**, was formed in 2020 to support IJM Philippines' mission of protecting children from online sexual exploitation and scaling protection globally.

**Be part of the fight to protect and restore our children's safety and freedom.**

Become a partner or advocate. [Contact us.](#)



## IJM

19/F Marco Polo  
Ortigas, Sapphire Road  
Ortigas Center  
Pasig City 1600,  
Philippines  
P: 632 8 637 3983  
F: 632 8 633 7707  
[ijm.org.ph](http://ijm.org.ph)



**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.