



PROSTASIA

FOUNDATION

A Child Protection
Organization





PROSTASIA
FOUNDATION



Protecting children by
upholding the rights and
freedoms of all

Introducing a new kind of child protection organization

Our mission is to ensure that the elimination of child sexual abuse is achieved consistently with the highest values of the society that we would like our children to grow up in.

Protecting children from sexual abuse is a cause that everyone can unite behind. Often, however, the measures we take to combat child sexual abuse (CSA) are less effective than they should be, because they are driven by emotion rather than evidence. In striving to protect children from abuse, we may end up harming them and others. Prostasia Foundation addresses this problem by:

- helping to fund sound scientific research on CSA prevention.
- engaging with diverse stakeholders whose voices are not normally heard.
- addressing the human rights impacts of child protection laws and policies.
- communicating the results of our research and engagement to policymakers, platforms, and the public.

This uniquely balanced, rights-respecting and evidence-based approach to CSA prevention allows us not only to protect children from abuse, but also to reduce the separate harms caused to children and others by our society's predominantly reactive child protection agenda.

By upholding the values of child protection, human and civil rights, and sex positivity, Prostasia will represent a unique and nuanced voice for children in policy discussions around child sexual abuse prevention.



Formation of Prostasia Foundation

Prostasia Foundation was formed in April 2018 by a group of mental health professionals, child protection workers, human rights activists, sex industry experts, and CSA survivors. The foundation began one week after an anti sex-trafficking bill called FOSTA/SESTA (Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act/Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act) was signed into law.

Like other laws before and after it, FOSTA/SESTA took an approach to child protection policymaking with which we disagree:

- It is not evidence-based; for example, it is misfocused on those who match a popular stereotype of offenders rather than on those who pose the most danger to children.
- Its proponents relied heavily on using emotive language to secure its support from industry and its ultimate passage through Congress.
- Insufficient attention was paid to the rights of innocent people who would bear the brunt of the law's impact: in this case, sex workers and users of Internet platforms.

In order to promote a more inclusive and better-informed approach, Prostasia ensures that our Advisory Council includes representatives from these and other affected groups who are normally excluded from the national conversation on child protection.



Our Values

Our approach is holistic, multidisciplinary, and multi-stakeholder, and is driven by our commitment to the following three values:

Human and civil rights

Our work is grounded in respect for universal human rights such as freedom of expression, privacy, and the due process of law.

2



Child protection

There is never any justification for adults to have sexual contact with children or to use or traffic in unlawful images of minors.

Sex positivity

We proceed on the assumption that private sexual behavior between consenting adults, or by oneself, is not harmful, rather than presuming that it is.

3

By combining these three values with a rigorously evidence-based approach and a commitment to broad and inclusive community consultation, Prostasia is uniquely equipped to address difficult questions that many other organizations avoid. It is also uniquely equipped to direct the results of this research into policy processes aimed at preventing CSA, including the sharing of (unlawful images of minors), before it happens.

Our Approach

The majority of sexual offences aren't the result of child sex trafficking, nor are they committed by those known to have previously committed sex offences. Yet these are the targets of most child protection laws and policies, which explains why they are so ineffective.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



95% of sexual offenses are committed by someone with no criminal history



77% of CSA is committed in a residence



90% of CSA is perpetrated by someone the child knows and trusts



73% of CSA is committed by those who are primarily attracted to adults



35% of CSA is committed by juveniles

In contrast, ProStasia's priority is on using law, technology, and social intervention to prevent CSA before it happens, rather than merely tracking down and punishing those who have already offended - at which point our society has already failed the victim. We do this through four actions:

- **Facilitating Research.** Despite the massive social and economic burden of CSA, there is a huge shortfall of funding available to researchers, who are still grappling with important questions about its causes and how to prevent it. We connect researchers with donors to unlock answers to these questions.
- **Consulting to Platforms.** We advise Internet platforms on where and how to draw the difficult lines between freedom of expression and content that harms children. Like other groups, we support the use of hash-based filtering of known unlawful images of minors. We also assist platforms in fulfilling public expectations that they do more than this - while maintaining a free and open Internet.
- **Campaigning for Effective Laws.** Children deserve to be protected by laws and policies that are effective, fair, and constitutionally sound. That's why ProStasia campaigns for more effective, evidence-based child protection laws that are informed by our dialogue, outreach, and scholarly research.
- **Defending the Innocent.** Whether it's teens engaged in age-appropriate behaviors with peers, adult sex workers seeking safe and secure ways to communicate, members of the consensual kink community working through trauma, or those seeking support to avoid offending, we advocate for the civil rights of those wrongly caught up in laws and policies aimed at child sex abusers.

Join or partner with us

Prostasia Foundation offers opportunities for companies, researchers, and policymakers to partner with us in our evidence-based child protection mission. Details of opportunities to get involved are available on our website, and they may also be contained in an information sheet included in the inside back cover pocket of this printed booklet.



Contact Information

Prostasia Foundation (“Prostasia”) is an independent and non-partisan s.501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated in the state of California, EIN 82-4969920.



18 Bartol Street #995
San Francisco CA 94133



+1 415 650 2557



info@prost.asia



<https://prost.asia>



<https://twitter.com/ProstasiaInc>



<https://fb.com/ProstasiaInc>

About our Branding



The name **Prostasia** comes from the Greek word for “protection”, signifying that we are a child protection organization. Taking the shape of a torch, the trunk of the tree represents enlightenment and rights. The trunk of rights holds up many branches: child protection (the right to body integrity), sex worker rights, digital rights, due process rights, and so on. The tree itself represents growth - both the natural growth from childhood into adulthood, and the growth in understanding between diverse stakeholders that we aim to promote. It also represents the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, a sexual metaphor from the creation myths of the three major monotheistic faiths.



PROSTASIA
FOUNDATION