



PROSTASIA
FOUNDATION

Prevention,
Restoration,
Rationality,
Human Rights.

**Annual
Report**

**20
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Introduction

It's hardly necessary to observe that 2020 hasn't been an easy year. But in a year in which the importance of taking an evidence-based, public health approach has never been clearer, championing this approach in the field of child sexual abuse prevention has enabled Prostasia Foundation to survive and thrive.

The Just Beginnings Collaborative (JBC), a charitable foundation supporting survivor-centered efforts to heal from, prevent, and ultimately end child sexual abuse, partnered with us this year in recognition of the unique value of the peer support platform that we sponsor as a vital intervention for at-risk adolescents and adults during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

But that's just one of the year's highlights. During 2020 we also took on our first paid staff member, further diversified our Board and Advisory Council, added a brand new program for child sexual abuse survivors, funded the first phase of a research project on sexual outlets, and continued our successful webinar, newsletter, blog, and campaigning activities. Amidst all the struggles of this moment, 2020 was Prostasia Foundation's strongest year yet.

We look forward to the year in which we can say that our prevention-focused approach was also broadly embraced by policymakers, platforms, and other nonprofits. Unfortunately, this is not that year. Carceral responses to child sexual abuse (CSA) remain overwhelmingly popular even in the wake of nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism. Moral panic also continues to dominate public discourse on CSA, giving cover to human rights abuses that especially affect minority communities. One of the bitter fruits of this scaremongering has been the rise of the far-right QAnon conspiracy movement.

Even so, there are reasons to be hopeful. One of them is that as the tide of public and official sentiment has turned against QAnon in 2020, we have a golden opportunity to respond with stigma-free, scientifically accurate information about CSA and its prevention. Another is that as thought

leaders are increasingly promoting alternatives to policing as a response to social problems, funders will begin to pay more attention to primary prevention initiatives. Prostasia Foundation takes pride in our evidence-based, prevention-first approach.

We also recognize that child protection is the area in which it is most important to ensure that human rights are upheld in all that we do—because it is the first area where those rights are likely to be infringed upon. When no other advocacy group dares to call out the human rights abuses and misinformation put forward in the name of protecting children, you can rely on Prostasia Foundation to do just that—while also offering a powerful positive agenda for prevention.



Support the Prostasia Foundation

To help ensure our sustainability in 2021 and beyond, please consider pledging to support us as a donor, member, or partner today.

www.prostasia.org





“I’m really, really proud to be associated with the Foundation. There are a few instances where people can genuinely work on solving this problem and it’s not by getting angry, and it’s a pleasure to participate in rational approaches.”

– Dr James Cantor, Advisory Council



In This Report

Promoting Primary Prevention.....	1
Campaigning for Effective Laws	3
Defending the Innocent	5
Our Team.....	7
Finances.....	13

Promoting primary prevention

In our 2018 Annual Report, we wrote “anybody can commit child sexual abuse—but nobody is predestined to do so.” Our primary prevention approach is built upon this understanding, challenging the popular misconception that only pedophiles commit CSA, and that preventing them from doing so is impossible.

It is ironic, then, that the same community that the public holds most responsible for CSA is also the community whose members find it most difficult to seek the support they may need to remain mentally healthy and law-abiding. During 2020, censorship of minor-attracted people (MAPs) simply for seeking information or support, and of professionals endeavoring to provide that support, reached an all-time high, with Twitter making some particularly poor choices.

MAP Support Club (MSC) exists as an independent, censorship-free peer support resource for MAPs who are who are fundamentally against child sexual abuse and who are committed to never harming children. It is also the only such resource that is available to adolescent MAPs, who may particularly struggle with living up to that commitment. The adolescent years are peak ages for sexual offending against younger

children, as well as being the years when many MAPs first become aware of their attractions. During the COVID-19 pandemic period, the risks involved are only heightened.

Research supports our belief that peer support for MAPs not only improves their own mental wellness, but also thereby promotes the safety of the participants and those around them. MSC also provides a gateway for accessing professional support resources, when peer support is not enough. In 2020, one of the milestones that Prostasia Foundation achieved was the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with Stop It Now, the United States-based provider of helpline service for the prevention of child sexual abuse. As part of our new partnership, trained helpline operators will be regularly available in MSC to provide a caring, listening ear to those who may need it.

During 2020 we also custom-developed a CSAM-scanning product to interface with the MSC chat server, to help ensure that MSC remains a safe and non-offending space. We released this Rocketchat CSAM scanning app as free and open source software on GitHub, providing over 168,000 other websites that use Rocketchat a simple way to guard their platforms against posting of known child sexual abuse images. We intend to continue the development of this tool in 2021, to add an automatic reporting feature.



“The difficulty I think you guys have, from what I see of the political debates in America, is the inability to separate that kind of abuse that you’re trying to deal with in Prostasia from the wider discussion about sexuality in society, which seems to me to be a separate kind of conversation and not one to be lumped together.”

*– Andrew Puddephatt, Chair,
Internet Watch Foundation*



Campaigning for effective laws

One of the most challenging areas of work for Prostagia Foundation is our advocacy for evidence-based child protection laws that are attuned to the needs of the communities that they impact. There is no better illustration of the need for such advocacy than the anti-trafficking law FOSTA, which provided the impetus for our formation in 2018. In last year's Annual Report we explained how FOSTA, despite being originally framed as a law for the protection of children, has actually placed them in greater peril.

This story continues in 2020 with the introduction of the EARN IT Act, which follows the template set by FOSTA, and will have similar impacts on the safety of marginalized communities who depend upon the Internet to communicate. Soon after the EARN IT Act's introduction in March, Prostagia Foundation led a coalition of prevention groups, including the Global Prevention Project, Stop It Now!, and NARSOL, in writing to the Senate Judiciary Committee to oppose the law. We explained that the law excludes sexual violence prevention experts, and unwisely places sole responsibility on Internet companies to

prevent a wide range of sexual harms, rather than involving all stakeholders in a more comprehensive public health approach.

The Invest in Child Safety Act, which was introduced into Congress in May, would take a more comprehensive approach, by contributing a record \$5 billion towards the prevention of child sexual abuse, the apprehension of those who perpetrate it, and the removal of images of that abuse. Prostagia Foundation supported this law, and spoke with its sponsors about introducing improvements that would tighten its prevention focus, and safeguard against the misuse of enforcement funding to prosecute obscenity or sex work crimes.

Although the Invest in Child Safety Act did not progress during 2020, another prevention law in Congress did: the Jenna Quinn Law, which unanimously passed the Senate in September. Based on a model already passed in over half of U.S. states, the Jenna Quinn Law promotes community based education and training for teachers, caregivers, and students to prevent child sexual abuse. The law's namesake, survivor and prevention advocate Jenna Quinn, was a guest on our December podcast/ vodcast episode to talk about the law and her experiences.

Although there are ongoing battles over the laws mentioned above, there is one law for which Prostagia Foundation campaigned in

2020 that did achieve a positive resolution. California law SB-145 allows judges to spare a young person from the sex offense registry if their offense was to have consenting oral or anal sex with a 14-17 year old partner. Since judges already had the same discretion in cases of penile-vaginal sex, the effect of SB-145 was simply to eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ young people who are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. SB-145, which was also supported by Equality California and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault among others, was passed into law in August, even in the face of a QAnon-linked misinformation campaign that targeted its supporters, including Prostagia Foundation.

Although our advocacy work is largely centered on the United States where most of our team are based, we have also strategically engaged in international, European, and Australian advocacy opportunities. The most important development in Europe during 2020 was the leaking of draft recommendations by the European Commission that would require end-to-end encrypted communications to be opened up to mass surveillance, using the justification of scanning them for child abuse images. Prostagia Foundation is the only group campaigning against this draconian and unnecessary proposal, and in favor of interventions that could prevent abuse images being created and shared to begin with.



“There’s a little bit of tension between child protection organizations and human rights ones. We’re trying to find areas of agreement because ultimately it doesn’t have to be one or the other.”

– Veronica Yates,
Child Rights International Network





“I appreciate the nuance of discussing topics that people like to take a moral stance on when one is not needed. Plugging your ears and saying it’s gross doesn’t fix the problem - providing sexual education, support groups, and ending stigma do.”

- Survey respondent



Defending the innocent

Our approach towards the enforcement of sexual morality provides perhaps the clearest illustration of the difference between Prostasia Foundation and some other, larger child protection groups.

When the preferences of puritanical adults are allowed to shape an organization’s agenda, its focus on protecting real children from direct harm is weakened. Prostasia maintains its focus by adopting sex positivity as one of our guiding values, meaning that we have no interest in what consenting adults read, do, or think, and that we locate the evil of child sexual abuse in the fact that it is non-consensual.

In our introduction to last year’s Annual Report, we mentioned the case of a 17 year old girl from Costa Rica who was prosecuted after the Canadian Center for Child Protection referred her to local police for posting sexual cartoons to her blog. In response to this and other cases in which the overbroad application of

morality-based laws has been used to harm and stigmatize innocent people, Prostasia Foundation was joined by the National Coalition Against Censorship, Article 19, and the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, in urging the international association of child abuse reporting hotlines, INHOPE, to play its part to end the abhorrent practice of tracking and criminalizing those who share artistic works. INHOPE, regrettably, declined to accept our call. This was not the only occasion in 2020 in which child protection has been claimed as a motive by those clearly pursuing a morality agenda. Prostasia Foundation has also been assisting in the defense of the administrator of a fiction archive, who stands accused of obscenity offenses for hosting text-only stories. We also helped defeat a U.S. Customs and Border Protection ruling that a sex doll was inherently “obscene,” while we continue to support research into the actual impacts of these objects on sexual offending.

In Canada, a significant ruling was handed down in September when a novelist was acquitted of child pornography charges,

and Canada’s child pornography law was declared unconstitutional to the extent that it covered literature that described child sexual abuse, but did not “advocate or counsel” it. As the judge pointed out, such an overbroad law would even prevent child sexual abuse survivors from telling their stories—as in the Survivor Expressions blog series that Prostasia Foundation launched in August, with support from sex worker and technologist collective Assembly Four.

On the other side of the coin, we also recognize the importance of ensuring that Internet users are not subjected to sexualized content without their consent—and this is especially so for content that may trigger child sexual abuse survivors. As such, we have been working with Internet companies to help them design their platforms to reflect the best practice standards that we developed in our 2019 #SexContentDialogue principles. In June, we held a successful webinar with two of these upcoming platforms, Fanexus and Boba Board, about the measures they have taken to balance these principles.

Our Team

Board of Directors



Jeremy Malcolm, PhD

is a lawyer, human rights activist, author, and father of two. His previous employers include the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Consumers International.



Maggie McNeill

is a writer, sex worker, and former librarian. She writes a daily blog called "The Honest Courtesan" which examines the realities, myths, history, lore, science, philosophy, art, and every other aspect of prostitution.



Jae Snell

is a mental health worker, a human rights activist and educator, and researcher who specializes in understanding trauma and paths to recovery, as well as LGBTQIA+ advocacy and public policy analysis.



Candice Christiansen

is founder of The Global Prevention Project, and Namasté Center for Healing. She is an expert witness who administers sex specific mental health evaluations and is a Certified EMDR Therapist.

Our Team

Staff



Meagan Ingerman

(Program Manager) is a childcare and child development specialist with over ten years as a provider, tutor, and consultant. She also volunteers with the organized kink community.



Meagan Roach

is an interdisciplinary designer and mental health advocate who draws upon a unique interdisciplinary skillset to help execute our creative strategy within both digital and print mediums.



Christopher Ike

is a freelance WordPress/Frontend developer with skills in Bootstrap, CSS, and JavaScript. He helps to develop and manage Prostasia's website as well as providing graphic design and copywriting skills.



Earl Yarrington (Blog Editor)

is an associate professor of English and adjunct professor in human services. He is also a graduate student in clinical social work at Louisiana State University and is working toward sex therapy certification.

Our Team

Advisory Council



Craig Harper, PhD

is a Lecturer in Human Psychology, and based at Nottingham Trent University. The bulk of his work has examined public attitudes within a forensic context, particularly in relation to sexual crime.



Gilian Tenbergen, PhD

is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology with SUNY Oswego, specializing in the neurobiology of pedophilia and its translation into the prevention of child sexual abuse.



Ian O'Brien

is Senior Director of Programs and Operations at the Free Speech Coalition. O'Brien attended graduate school at Columbia University's prestigious Mailman School of Public Health.



Lola Hunt

is a current sex worker and co-founder of social enterprise Assembly Four. Lola has spoken on many sex worker rights panels including the 2019 United Nations Internet Governance Forum in Berlin.



James Cantor, PhD

is a clinical psychologist and neuroscientist, internationally recognized for his research on the causes of pedophilia over the past 20 years. Dr. Cantor is the Director of the Toronto Sexuality Centre.



Nerea Vega Lucio

is a researcher whose thesis for her bachelor of medicine was on the topic of CSA prevention, non-offending pedophiles, and the use of social networks as therapeutic tools.



Ira Ellman

is Distinguished Affiliated Scholar, Center for the Study of Law and Society, University of California, Berkeley, and Affiliated Faculty of the Berkeley Center for Child and Youth Policy.



Kyung Sin "KS" Park

Park is a professor at the Korea University School of Law, and co-founder and Executive Director of www.opennetkorea.org.



Honey Sampson

is a social media influencer, a cam model, and an activist for sex and body positivity, sex worker rights, and sexual abuse prevention.

Finances

In our 2019 annual report, we reported that it would be an objective of ours for 2020 to diversify our funding base. The

diagram shown here illustrates just how well Prostasia Foundation achieved that objective this year. A large part of this achievement was down to our recognition by the Just Beginnings Collaborative this year, as one of their #WeSeeYouFund grantees which were awarded to twelve organizations aiming to interrupt, support healing from, and prevent child sexual abuse.

Despite this success, we did fall short of each of our 2020 financial goals, which were to raise \$100,000 in grants from major donors such as philanthropic foundations, \$10,000 in corporate donations, and \$1,000 in recurring donations such as memberships. At the time we set that goal, we were at an advanced stage of negotiations with a different charitable foundation for their support of our work. But soon after, the COVID-19 pandemic was upon us and the philanthropic landscape changed.

Although Prostasia Foundation began as a grassroots effort, we are committed to becoming an effective, professionally staffed organization. In 2021, we will remain on that path, although we will take it at a slower incline. In 2021 we plan to make more effective use of staff and volunteer time by loosening our currently-strict communications production schedule, so that we can better focus on programmatic work and fundraising.

Income

Donations	\$33,141.31
Memberships	\$4,109.17
Sponsorships	\$6,000.00
Grants.....	\$5,000.00
Other	\$823.84

Total Income **\$49,074.32**

Expenses

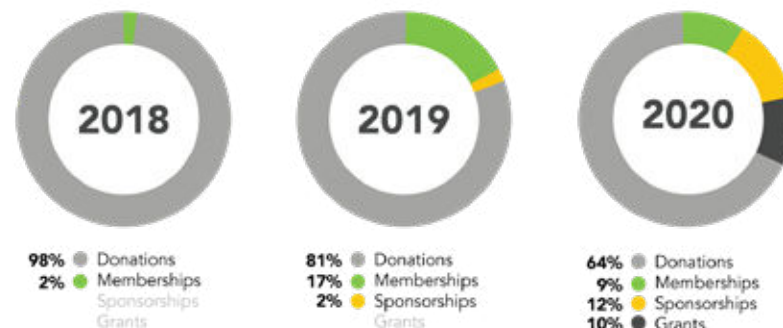
Research Expenses	\$13,667.00
Salaries and Benefits.....	\$10,000.57
Contractors	\$2,645.50
Web Developments & Design.....	\$1,938.44
Communications	\$614.25
Travel	\$554.70
Software Subscriptions	\$533.74
Bank fees.....	\$500.06
Events.....	\$469.80
Hosting Fees	\$408.53
Other	\$1,547.71

Total Expenses **\$32,886.31**

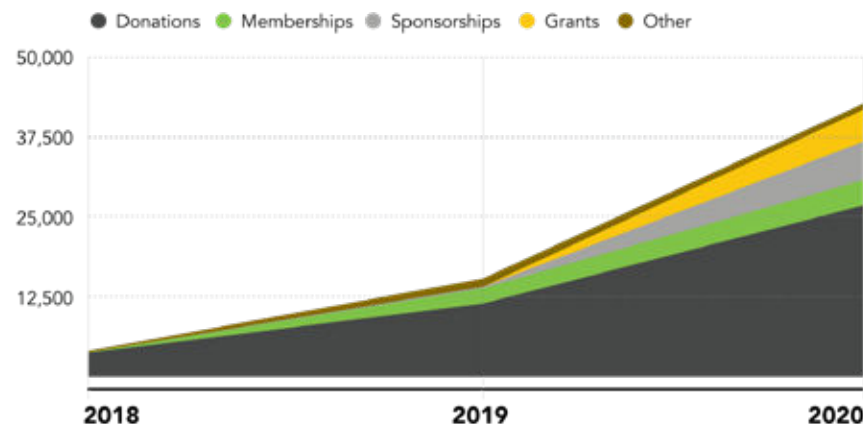
Net Worth

Total Assets	\$20,651.84
Total Liabilities.....	\$2,068.66

Total Net Worth **\$18,583.18**



Income Growth



Name	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Difference
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$314.95	-\$658.62	-\$344.38
Intangible Assets	\$387.95	\$387.95	\$0.00
Credit Card	-\$144.40	-\$960.66	-\$846.26
Web Hosting Credit	\$576.17	\$418.06	-\$158.11
Office Equipment	\$1,571.18	\$1,721.87	\$150.69
Paypal	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Petty Cash	\$164.53	\$0.00	-\$164.53
Current Donations	\$962.50	\$4,131.21	\$3,168.71
Bank Account	\$344.23	\$14,601.37	\$14,257.14

Erratum

In our 2019 Annual Report, four headings in the Revenue/income column were miscopied from the Expenses column. The correct headings should be Memberships, Registration fees, Sponsorships, and Extraordinary revenue





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