



# Prevention today for a **SAFER TOMORROW**

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# Prevention Today for a Safer Tomorrow

**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.





# **We can protect children from harm and abuse by focusing on a uniquely balanced, evidence-based approach to CSA prevention that respects the rights of all humans.**

Protecting children from sexual abuse is a cause that everyone can unite behind. Often, the measures taken to combat sexual abuse are not as effective as they could be, primarily because they are driven by emotion rather than evidence. Ineffective measures taken to protect children from abuse will cause harm to 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.





# About 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.

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

Our 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 our core values Prostasia represents a unique and nuanced voice for children in policy discussions around child sexual abuse prevention.**





# Our Values



## 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.



## Human Rights

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



## 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.

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.



# Facts



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

77% of CSA is committed in a residence



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



73% of offenses are committed by someone primarily attracted to adults.



35% of CSA is committed by juveniles.

## Our Approach

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

In contrast, Prostasia's priority is on using the law, technology, and social intervention to prevent CSA before it happens. We strive to do more than merely track down and punish those who have already offended - at which point 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. We connect researchers with donors to unlock answers to these questions.

**Campaigning for Effective Laws.** Children deserve to be protected by laws and policies that are effective, fair, and constitutionally sound. This is why Prostasia campaigns for more effective, evidence-based child protection laws that are informed by our dialogue, outreach, and scholarly research.

**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.

**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.





# Meet Dr. Tenbergen

Executive Director, Prostasia Foundation



## Dr. Gilian Tenbergen

BA with Honors in Psychology, SUNY Oswego 2008

Master of Science in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience with a specialty in psychopathology, Maastricht University in the Netherlands 2011

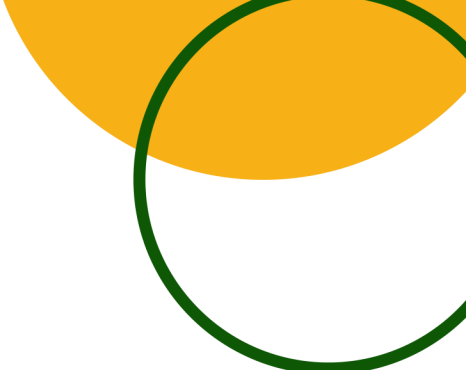
Hannover Medical School, defended doctoral thesis 2017

## A Message from Dr. Tenbergen

2023 represents a new year and a new chapter for Prostasia Foundation. I am incredibly excited to take on the role of Executive Director with this organization, whose mission I have strongly supported since its inception in 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and discuss my decision to step into the Executive Director role.

This year - in particular - has seen numerous attacks on sex education, science, digital rights, and those who advocate for a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to child protection. Prostasia Foundation has seen its share of vitriol. While it does not appear to be ending soon, I am excited to step into the role of Executive Director to lead this organization, in whose mission - to ensure the elimination of child sexual abuse consistent with the highest societal ideals for our children - I so passionately believe.





I am personally and professionally dedicated to child protection. I am a new mother and academic - this is what I teach every day. I want to make it public that I am a mother and I work in child protection, although perhaps in an unorthodox way. I have never been one for taking the mainstream or traditional path in life; I think this is why Prostasia's mission of keeping children safe through upholding human rights for all is so relevant and personal to me. When I look at my child, I see the future and I see all the children who deserve happy, healthy, harm-free lives. My purpose is to see this become a reality, and together we will achieve this.

Certain voices are historically excluded from the conversation when society discusses the most effective ways to protect children from danger. Groups like the LGBTQ+ community, the trans community, sex workers, and the consensual kink communities have not had a seat at the table to join in the conversation that affects them directly. These are the voices I will fold into our work as we emerge from our hiatus as a stronger, more potent human-rights focused organization.

I come to the not-for-profit sector after spending several years in the academy in the U.S., where I taught courses in psychology and conducted research into child sexual abuse prevention methods (interested readers can check out my Research Gate or Google Scholar profiles for a list of my work).

I have no intention of giving up my research activities, only modifying them somewhat now as I step into the role as Executive Director of Prostasia. There is still so much we need to know about how to effectively prevent child sexual abuse, how to make those practices reality while ensuring digital safety for all.

In the not-for-profit sector, I have worked with the New York State Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (NYS ATSA - State Chapter of ATSA) and the New York State Alliance for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse. These are voluntary positions located in my home state of New York, where I have been able to invest efforts into sexual abuse prevention close to home. Now the time feels right to expand my efforts beyond New York and to contribute my energies to preventing sexual harm towards children nationally and internationally.

My personal goals for Prostasia are quite simple - I would like to see the organization stay active and grow, while maintaining our mission of a human-rights centered approach to sexual abuse prevention. I will bring together key stakeholders as partners to inform our activities and projects. Using my academic and scientific background, I will communicate to our members and the broader public that what we do is protect children. We have never and will never support initiatives that do otherwise. You will see me active with Prostasia - from revamping our TikTok and Youtube accounts to bringing in a diverse array of contributing authors for our blog account. You'll see me interacting with our base, recruiting new members, expanding our Board of Directors and Advisory Council, and promoting our mission. Prostasia Foundation is the organization you want to support if keeping kids safe is your goal too!





# PROSTASIA

## FOUNDATION

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.

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ProstasiaInc



# 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.







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