

# Welcome To The ECSA Toolkit



Working to protect children



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**Across the world people are grappling with the problem of child sexual abuse and what to do about it. Some countries have invested heavily in support for past victims and in prosecuting and punishing offenders. Others have been “going upstream”, trying to work out what can be done to stop children from being abused and to stop (potential) perpetrators before they have done harm. Some places have created ways to keep children safe that others can learn from.**

And that is why we created ECSA. Child sexual abuse is a worldwide problem, and it makes sense that if some of the solutions have been found, these need sharing as widely as possible, so that others can work out if they might help in their situation. From experience there are lots of similarities and lots of differences in child sexual abuse from place to place. So some solutions might work in one place and not in another. Most interventions or programmes will need adapting to the local context anyway.

This toolkit aims to help you build a plan to prevent child sexual abuse – based on your understanding of the place you are in and the particular problems children face. Then, based on that understanding and an understanding about how abusers operate, it helps you consider what is known about prevention. This is to help you decide, with others, what a good plan for prevention might look like. The biggest part of the site is made up of the programmes and interventions listed and described under “Intervene”. There are lots of interventions listed, but many more to be discovered. No one of these will be a sufficient solution to the problem of child sexual abuse in your area, just as they are not in mine! And any programme or intervention is likely to need adjusting to make it useful in a place different from where it was designed and used. But a strategy for prevention that is based on an understanding of the problem, and that combines a number of different interventions, stands the best chance of keeping children safe wherever in the world you may be.

We hope you find this toolkit useful. We have tried to include enough information without making it too complex. There are lots of simple things that everyone can do that contribute to children being safe. But some interventions need particular skills and abilities that most of us don't possess. In the end, any comprehensive prevention strategy will involve a range of interventions and a range of people and organisations to use them. Collaboration will be essential. But in some places prevention starts with just a few people committed to keeping children safe. Wherever you are starting from, we hope the tools and interventions we have included help you find a good way forward. We welcome any feedback – what did you find useful on the site, what was less useful, and how can we improve the site for others.

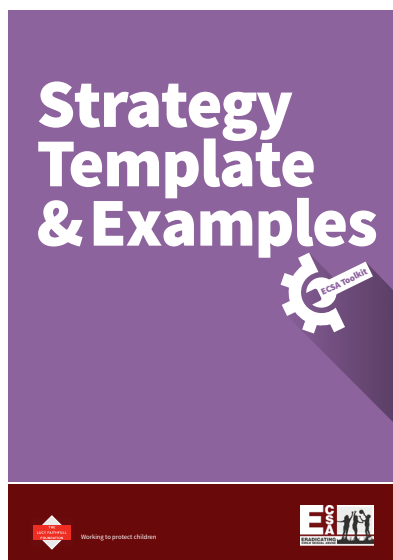
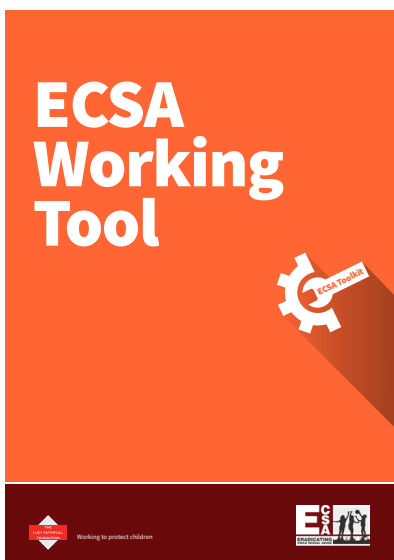
Together we can prevent child sexual abuse.

**Donald Findlater**

**Director of Research and Development**

**Lucy Faithfull Foundation**

## ECSA Toolkit Publications



All of these publications are available to download via the ECSA website:  
<http://ecsa.lucyfaithfull.org>



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