

Child Focus gives its support to the consciousness-raising campaign "stopchildprostitution.be"

The main mission of Child Focus is to provide active support in investigations concerning the disappearance, abduction or sexual exploitation of children on the one hand, and in action to prevent and combat these problems on the other.

In 2009, via its international emergency number 116 000, accessible 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, Child Focus has received in average 53.600 calls concerning cases of disappearance, abduction or sexual abuse; it concerns not only reports and requests for information but also requests for intervention.

More than 2.000 cases of disappearance and sexual exploitation of children were treated in 2009 by professional case managers (psychologists, legal experts or criminologists).

To fight against the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, Child Focus has set up a civil contact point www.stopchildporno.be where anyone can report anonymously any offence of a sexual nature threatening minors.

In accordance with a cooperation agreement between Child Focus and the authorities, these reports are passed on to the Federal Police through e-cops for investigation. In 2009, Child Focus received 2.131 reports concerning presumed child pornographic material.

One of the missions of Child Focus is to organise campaigns to increase public awareness of the problems of disappearance and sexual exploitation of children, also online. The site www.clicksafe.be for instance, is aimed at informing children, young people, parents and teachers about the potential risks involved in surfing and chatting and at giving some advice for safe surfing on the net.

It is therefore quite logical that, in its mission to prevent and combat the sexual exploitation of children, Child Focus teams up with other partners in the campaign against child prostitution. Child Focus is actively supporting this campaign by making available its international emergency line 116 000, its contact point for reporting child pornography www.stopchildporno.be and the expertise of its case managers.

Information for the press

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