

# **Child Protection Initiatives**

## ***undertaken by the Founding Members of the International Task Force on Child Protection***

*as of June 2016*

### **Academy for International School Heads (AISH)**

AISH will use its resources to provide information to Heads of International Schools including:

- Using AISHnet, AISH's communication vehicle, to convey information directly to heads of school
- Devoting the May/June 2016 issue of AISH's newsletter/blog to the topic of Child Protection with articles written by heads of school to heads
- Advertising trainings available on AISH's new website (to launch September, 2016)
- Housing relevant resources on the AISH website, members' section. These include: sample policies, sample Code of Conducts, and other resources that may not be available on the ICMEC website.
- Encouraging support and dialogue from heads to heads at AISH events on the issue of Child Protection. AISH's Summer Seminar and Oasis Day will provide forums for open communication on Child Protection issues.

### **Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE)**

AAIE / NSU International Child Protection Leadership Team Workshop & Certificate Program  
- June 27th to July 1st 2016

This institute will offer training and practical sessions for independent and international school leadership teams looking to create and implement a comprehensive child protection plan that meets the new accreditation and evaluation standards from the IB, CIS, NEASC, AdvancED, Middle States, WASC and other top accrediting organizations. An impressive array of international experts will provide the strategic and practical resources and models along with the just-in-time support needed for creating successful and individualized school child protection implementation plans.

A combination of whole group, team based and specialized break-out sessions for school leaders, counselors, curriculum specialists, human resources and medical staff will ensure you receive both the team and individualized support and knowledge for success. Dr. Joe Sullivan, Dr. Marcelo Castro, Susie March, Dr. Jordan Greenbaum, Tim Gerrish, Dr. Scott Poland and other NSU Child Protection faculty will facilitate this rigorous 4.5 day institute on the NSU campus in Fort Lauderdale. Register [www.aaie.org](http://www.aaie.org).

## **Council of International Schools (CIS)**

In 2016-2017, CIS will launch a series of workshops to educate and prepare its member school communities for the implementation of core Accreditation Standards for child protection. A global team of child protection experts will collaborate with CIS professional staff to lead four two-day workshops for leaders, counsellors and teachers in Amsterdam, Dubai, New York and Singapore. Dates and venues will be published at the CIS website in June 2016.

### Workshop Objectives:

- ✓ Ensure school communities possess knowledge and understanding of the signs and risks of child abuse.
- ✓ Develop understanding and common interpretation of the new Accreditation Standards to support the development of effective policies, practices and curriculum.
- ✓ Focus on challenges facing international school communities as they strive to interpret various cultural attitudes and actions in addressing forms of abuse.

CIS identified and established linkages with consultants who offer expertise in international education to support our schools in the development and enhancement of child protection programmes and services.

The CIS Educational Recruitment Service will continue to require background checks as part of our candidate screening process, providing guidance and support for educators and schools as they undertake this requirement.

Further details about our child protection initiatives, our network of affiliated consultants and a link to the International Task Force on Child Protection reports and the ICMEC Education Portal can be found at our website.

## **Council of British International Schools (COBIS)**

[COBIS](#) leads the way in requiring regular child safeguarding training for its member schools. In addition, applicants to COBIS schools must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and Disclosure and Baring Service checks in the UK.

COBIS provides child safeguarding training and educator applicant screening services through its partner organizations. Courses can be completed online or in person at its annual conferences and events.

## ECIS

ECIS is committed to offering professional learning around child protection (safeguarding) issues, both to members and to non-members. We see it as a service to the international education community. We address child protection via four specific channels.

### Webinars

ECIS began to offer webinars related to this theme as of December 2014, with our inaugural webinar on effective hiring practices, followed in Spring 2015 by a webinar on crisis communications. During the autumn of 2015, we constructed a three-webinar series on child safeguarding with Farrer & Co, a London-based law firm with a specialism in child protection issues. These webinars were offered through Spring 2016. ECIS will continue this relationship with Farrer & Co, offering at least two webinars per year. These webinars are free to members and non-members alike.

### Online Training

We believe that protecting the children in our care is our most important job in international education; learning itself depends on a child feeling safe. To this end, given our role as a professional learning organisation, we are collaborating further with Farrer & Co to build and offer high-quality and affordable online professional learning for teachers and staff on the topic of child protection.

Our four-module programme provides the principles -- the foundations -- for strong child protection policies and practices, complemented by assessments that require successful application of that knowledge. It is offered fully online so that training can be completed during school time or outside of school time; the assessment data will be shared with the designated administrator at each school, so that they can see whether there are any weak areas of understanding around the principles of child protection, which may necessitate follow-up by domain specialists. We make specific reference to the resources located on the ICMEC website, and the site is also on the Reading List for the course. The training course takes approximately 6 hours to complete, and we offer school-level subscriptions that are three years in length, with yearly top-up courses, so that we can provide learning around any updates in relevant topics. This is a very cost-efficient way to provide training to an entire faculty, with the quality assurance that comes from insightful assessments.

ECIS issues a Certificate of Completion to each successful participant, as we do with other kinds of training or certificate programmes.

### Conferences

ECIS has committed to featuring child protection workshops at our annual educator and leadership conferences, and we will continue to do so.

### Website

The landing page of our website has a panel dedicated to Safeguarding; it leads to a page that talks about the Task Force, and it provides a link to the ICMEC site, so that the task force's work is accessible.

### **International School Services (ISS)**

ISS, under Liz Duffy's leadership is guiding the organization through a new strategic plan. Strategies for child protection as well as actions related to the full implementation of the plan will be announced later this year.

Objectives include:

1. To develop an interdisciplinary team approach to risk management which includes child predation
2. To develop child protection initiatives
3. To develop school safety and security initiatives

Leading on from Anthony Maimone's work to enhance candidate screening last year, ISS has piloted a background check protocol to determine costs and efficacy of such action.

ISS stands ready and shall be available to assist further in this work that we expect will result in the protection of children in our international schools world-wide.

### **International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC)**

Maura Harty, President of ICMEC, has pledged her commitment to ensure that resources for the Education Portal continue to be identified and to develop the site, ensuring it is relevant, useful and up to date. ICMEC will appoint a part-time staff member who will be based at the ICMEC office in Alexandria, Virginia. ICMEC will continue to look to the Task Force for advice to assist with the identification of resources that will be helpful to the international community.

ICMEC has developed a comprehensive workshop, "Child Abuse and Exploitation: How can we protect our students?". Developed with input from a team of global health care professionals, and based upon the training needs survey and analysis administered through our associations, this workshop was originally presented last year in Dubai, refined following ITFCP input and is now being presented at international school conferences around the world.

### **U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Schools**

Regional Education Officer for Europe, Christine Brown, reported on the work done to secure funding through OSAC for the new ICMEC Education Portal, and to fund a position at ICMEC to oversee the portal. The Office of Overseas Schools has also been instrumental in liaising with U.S. law enforcement agencies and providing support to the US regional associations around the world as they identify expert presenters.

All U.S. Department of State Regional Education Officers (REO) have added Child Protection to their action agendas when they visit embassies, consulates and schools across their regions. They are addressing the status of each school's child protection efforts in their school visitation reports. REOs meet with the U.S. Regional Security Officers in each post to share ideas, resources and concerns related to school practices. They meet parents in large and small groups to discuss education related issues in the schools and at each post. During

those meetings, REOs explain the International Child Protection Task Force and the best practices for schools that their children are attending. Child Protection has become an integral part of school reviews around the world. Where possible the ICMEC website is shared, including the resources that are now available for parents and children, and an explanation of how the tip line works when accessed via the ICMEC website.