

The Redlight Children Campaign's blueprint for an ideal comprehensive legislative structure:

A. Background

The Redlight Children Campaign aims to globally decrease demand for child sex trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children. One of the ways it seeks to accomplish this is by pressuring governments to enact or amend legislation to address the issue more effectively and to allocate more resources towards enforcement of laws designed to combat child exploitation.

The Redlight Children Campaign aims to increase deterrence, make it more difficult and costly for perpetrators to sexually abuse children, increase the likelihood of catching perpetrators, and make prosecution faster, easier, and more efficient.

The Redlight Children Campaign focuses on laws and enforcement efforts relating to internet chat rooms, child pornography, sex tourism, and extraterritorial enforcement. Passing comprehensive legislation addressing these issues, increasing enforcement efforts, and allocating additional resources to these areas can help significantly reduce the sexual exploitation of children worldwide.

To help achieve these objectives, the Redlight Children Campaign believes that the following measures should be passed in every country in the world:

B. Proposed Legal Framework

Chat Rooms

- Any and all sexual conversations with a minor in an internet chat room should be illegal. Perpetrators must be held criminally liable if they knew or should have known that the victim was a minor.
- It should be illegal to send pornographic images to a minor in an internet chat room. Perpetrators must be held criminally liable if they knew or should have known that the victim was a minor.
- It should be illegal to request, over the internet, that a minor perform or simulate performance of any sexual act, or to request a minor to remove his or her clothing. Perpetrators must be held criminally liable if they knew or should have known that the victim was a minor.
- The punishment for violating any of these laws should be increased for each separate violation of the law.

Child Pornography

- Child pornography crimes should be subject to harsher penalties: downloading, possessing, sending, receiving, distributing, producing, or reproducing images of child pornography should be punishable by five years in prison per image, with all sentences to run consecutively.
- Child pornography offenses should be subject to a "reasonable person" test: the perpetrator is criminally liable if a reasonable person would have known that the image was the image of a minor.

Sex Tourism and Extraterritorial Enforcement

- Sex with a minor should be a strict liability crime. If a perpetrator has sex with a minor, he or she should be held criminally liable without regard to motive or alleged mistake or misunderstanding.
- Sexual activity with a minor anywhere in the world should be punishable in the perpetrator's home country.
- Sex tour operators should be punished criminally if they advertise that they offer, imply that they offer, or actually offer sex with children. Regardless of what is officially offered, if "tourists" on a particular sex tour regularly engage in sexual conduct with children during that tour, the tour company should be held criminally liable for offering child sex tours.
- A participant of a sex tour who is aware that another participant had sex with a child and does not report it should be held criminally responsible as an accomplice.

Enforcement and Allocation of Resources

- Enforcement of laws relating to child sexual exploitation should be significantly increased. More resources need to be allocated towards enforcement, so that the budget for enforcement reflects the size of the problem.
- The punishment for violations of laws relating to child sexual exploitation should be much harsher.
- More resources — in addition to the resources allocated to the victims — need to be allocated towards enforcement of the laws so that demand can effectively be controlled.
- International pressure must be increased in order to decrease child sexual exploitation worldwide.