

**The International Centre** 

RESEARCHING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING



### Child and youth participation for prevention and protection: The 'Our Voices' project

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#### Outline

- The 'Our Voices' Project
- Why involving children and young people affected by sexual violence is critical
- What the Our Voices Youth Advisors say about prevention and participation
- Regional learning and beyond

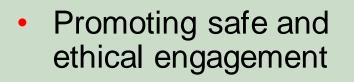




### What is 'Our Voices'?

Promote the involvement of children and young people in efforts to prevent sexual violence

- Gathering the views and ideas of young people
- Sharing learning









# Why involve children and young people affected by sexual violence?

Common consequences of exploitation	Common benefits of participation
Don't always recognise the harm	Better understanding of healthy relationships (AYPH, 2014)
Lack of power/control (Warrington, 2013)	Voice and choice
Isolation (Reid and Jones, 2011;Taylor-Browne <i>et al.</i> , 2002)	Sense of belonging (Hagel, 2013)
Stigma (Brown, 2004)	Identity and approval (Batsleer, 2011)
Low self worth/ self- confidence	Helping others (Batsleer, 2011, Levy, 2012, AYPH, 2014)





### What needs to change?







## Why do young people think they should be involved?

We know how to We know how young people think explain things, adults dodge about it, we say it how it is We have personal We talk experience to share, it the same makes it real language

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## How do young people think they can be involved?



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### What helps and hinders participation?

#### What helps

- Give examples
- Provide training
- Use the right language
- Make it fun
- Make it feel safe and comfortable
- Provide incentives

#### What hinders

- Too much time involved
- Boring
- Working alone
- Not providing the right information or resources
- Increasing stigma
- Re-traumatising/ reliving experiences





## What's the added value of a European Network?

- Encourages
- Inspires
- Identifies common principles
- Provides a common platform





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#### The road ahead...

- Creativity
- Conversations
- Commitment
- Change







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For more information on our work including research publications, short films and outputs from young people please visit www.beds.ac.uk/ic



