

YOUTH PORTAL AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS LOG ON. EXPLORE. DISCUSS. TAKE ACTION.

Some 2 million children – mainly girls, but also a significant number of boys – are exploited in the multibillion-dollar sex industry, specifically prostitution and pornography. An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide every year, and many others are sexually abused in their home, school or other places.

If you are outraged about this situation and want to make a difference – or if you are a youth activist already fighting this global problem – we invite you to join the interactive YOUTH PORTAL AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS at <http://www.stopX.org>. For more information, contact us at: jgonzalez@unicef.org.

The YOUTH PORTAL AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS is an online, central communication hub developed by UNICEF and its partners for youth activists concerned about the sexual exploitation of children. On the portal, you can:

- Download resources on sexual exploitation, including tips for how to take action on the issue, and key facts and figures about the situation worldwide. *Resources will be available in different languages.*
- Connect with other youth activists from around the world, and share your ideas and experiences, so that you can brainstorm solutions and take action together.
- Share videos, audio reports, pictures and articles you have produced about this issue with other young people, and showcase them to major media outlets such as television broadcasters, newspapers, and radio stations.

The portal will be launched in October 2008, in time for the upcoming World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation in Brazil. It can be used by participants in the Congress and other young activists from around the world to connect with each other and discuss the issue before, during and after the conference to create a movement for change.

The exploitation of children and adolescents is a global reality. Exploited children are subjected to prostitution, forced into marriage or illegally adopted. They provide cheap or unpaid labour, work as house servants or beggars, or are recruited into armed groups. Such exploitation exposes children to violence, sexual abuse and HIV infection, and it violates the right to be protected, grow up in a family environment and have access to education. Eliminating exploitation, and protecting young people from it, is a challenge all countries in the world must meet together.

World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

The first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was held in Stockholm in 1996, followed by World Congress II in Yokohama, 2001. Rio de Janeiro will host World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, 25–28 November 2008.

The World Congress III will bring together governments, private corporations, non-profit organizations, and other groups to mobilize all countries to guarantee children's right to be protected against sexual exploitation. Hundreds of youth activists will participate at the forum, and even more – including you – can participate in the online community. Visit the portal and register at: <http://www.stopX.org>. For more information on how you and your organisation can get involved, contact us at jgonzalez@unicef.org.

