



**A White Paper: *The Truth about Child Sexual Abuse***

**By Gregg Tyler Milligan, Author & Abuse Prevention Advocate  
May 5, 2013**

<http://www.godmustbesleeping.com/>

I was once asked when discussing the psychological effects of abuse during a magazine interview, “*What was the worst of the abuse for me personally?*” With a straightforward question – came a straightforward answer: “*The loss of my innocence.*”

There are few things in life that are as beautiful and pure as a child’s innocence. During our childhood, we have our first exposure to learning the crucial difference between right and wrong. This will become what defines us as human beings – what will make or break us – and establish our ability to succeed and ultimately survive. Therefore, if this decision-making process is interrupted by sexual abuse, the outcome is usually catastrophic. In other words, life-changing, threatening, and ending. What could be more vital in any of our lives?

Combining both personal and professional perspectives, I believe that child sexual abuse [is] increasing all over the world because there are simply more people on this planet. The terrible reality is that child sexual abuse [abuse of any kind] has been with us since the beginning of time along with the perpetrators of this deviant behavior. As established in other white papers – it is also a fact that child sexual abuse is never going to be wiped off the face of the earth. However, there is a tremendous amount we can do – we all have the power to help prevent abuse from happening; to remain aware and intervene when we see it; and to ensure proper treatment for those affected.

“Yes,” this is as good as it’s going to get on earth regarding abuse of any kind. We must start with a realistic approach. First we must address the misrepresentation of child sexual abuse by referring to some as ‘at risk children.’ Instead, let us see ‘all’ children as at-risk and begin there. Expect the best and prepare for the worst. In order to become fully-prepared – always expect [it] to happen; whatever, [it] may be. And, to bring the problem of child sexual abuse full circle – as awful as the issue itself is – worse still is how little is done about it.

*“How terrible!” [They] cry from their lofty chairs when a case of child sexual abuse is brought to the forefront.*

*“How terrible!” I say, when soon after [they] forget and move onto what’s next on the agenda.*

Many cases of child sexual abuse are ignored and the reasons range from:

“People are just too sensitive and unable to comprehend this awful blight”

“Society is just ill-equipped and improperly trained, and without the skills necessary to deal with these situations”

This is not true. We are not too sensitive, and we are properly equipped and trained to deal with child sexual abuse. Any excuse for ignoring abuse [of any kind], is inexcusable.

It is a fact that each generation is saddled with the responsibility of carrying forward our legacy and future. One positive step forward we can take is to reform the criminal justice system. It is appalling that ‘offenders’ must be forced to realize these are abhorrent acts and have serious repercussions. The reality is they do, and I believe time has long since passed for changing the punishment to fit the crime. Specifically, when sentencing those convicted, utilize life-imprisonment and/or a clear, definitive death penalty. If that latter is imposed, the sentence must be carried out both swiftly and humanely. Expressly, within 72-hours

of imposing sentence we must administer lethal injection. Harsh as this may sound, I welcome alternatives. Fear can be a powerful coercive instrument, but steps must be carefully taken to ensure it is used for good. As of now there are many victims who are afraid to come forward because they know that even if they do, they will most likely be ignored. Isn't it time the victimizers have their fair share of fear?

There have been great strides made in first-world countries; however, the majority of the population still avoids discussing the death-penalty when it comes to the crime of child sexual abuse. It must be discussed and it must be based on a one-world agenda. It is a very small world indeed and the effects of child sexual abuse are not isolated to one particular geographical area. Like the air we breathe; eventually, all of us around the globe will fill our lungs with the same air.

When we prevent abuse, the positive impact to the child's development is obvious. The child is allowed to become an adult without being abused. This would at least give the child a greater 'fighting chance' in the world. It sounds incredibly simple – because it is. Children learn quickly; both positive and negative lessons. This input comes in the form of what they see, hear, and feel. From these experiences, the child develops their unique personality and the 'content of their character' is established. When understanding the immense proportions of child abuse that exist and considering the statement, "Children are our future," then we are abusing, raping, molesting, and neglecting, the [hope] out of the world.

*"Child sexual abuse continues to be "disturbingly common" in all countries, despite widespread awareness of the problem, because of "social stigma and negligence."* (Source: Human Rights Watch, 2007 <http://www.hrw.org/>).

Child sexual abuse happens everywhere and seriously compounding the problem is the fact that few in a position of power are interested in doing anything about it. The story is the same, though the cast of characters are endlessly changing. Ignorance begets ignorance and recommendations to the contrary fall upon deaf ears. No one can argue that children have weakest power to protect themselves. They need the most protection and care from governments, society and law. Therefore, many countries have specific laws applying to children. However, child sexual abuse continues to be a "common" and rampant problem. We must accept that children represent the future of humanity. Destroying a child is the same as destroying the hope of humanity. The growing prevalence of abuse is the harbinger of demise for any functional society and we must take swift and sustained action to reverse this trend.

It is self-evident that societies all over the world, along with our governments are shockingly unprepared to deal with child sexual abuse cases, which again proves there is a deeper problem – "social stigma and negligence." There is a tremendous lack of social responsibility when it comes to the care and well-being of those who cannot protect themselves.

I will state the following fact based on empirical research and my own personal experiences with child sexual abuse:

*Although there are laws in effect to protect children, which have been introduced and have become policy by governments all over the world, these laws become weakened and/or lose their power altogether under a defunct government body that exhibits an indifference towards victims. Combine this lackadaisical approach along with the social stigma associated with exposing child sexual abuse, and one can quickly come to the conclusion that these are enormous deterrents to the reporting process.*

There are three main reasons for these severe impediments to treating and preventing child sexual abuse: (1) People believe it is useless to ask for help because there is little to no support or action taken from those in a position of power. (2) Reporting the problem often times makes the abuse worse if the abused must remain with the abuser. (3) The crushing weight of shame.

People in a position of power who are abusers themselves turn a blind eye to their duties to help the defenseless. There are also individuals in power positions who are prevented in some way from doing their job of protecting children, despite their best intentions to help. The answer is: **Try, regardless of loss of career, life and limb.** If you don't – you are dead anyway. The 'turning away' will come back to haunt you in a multitude of ways – your world is tarnished, and you have undeniably counted yourself as one of the slayers of humanity.

Because of the lack of action that occurs many times when abuse is reported, we distrust our schools, organizations, shelters, foundations, police, social workers, health care officials, lawyers, the criminal justice system, and government. We hide from each other. We hide from ourselves. No wonder the world seems like a cold and empty place filled with wolves in sheep's clothing. Each generation becomes increasingly despondent and disassociated, mumbling or shouting the mantra, "*No one cares about me anyway.*" You can actually hear the loss of future societies resound in this statement.

"Not enough people care" is the correct assessment; however, when you are an abused child with no one to help you, what does it matter how few or many people are not there to help you? If the end result is that you are lost and alone – despair is despair.

*"And the hits just keep on coming..."* Adding to the problem of child sexual abuse is gender, cultural, and socioeconomic discrimination. In developing nations and third-world countries, this is witnessed more often. I discuss this topic in other white papers. Establishing laws, even if they are enforced, is not enough. Acting upon them is a step in the right direction.

I often remind people that the difference between a guilty verdict and sentencing are fathoms deep. Corruption by those in a position of power, ignorance, discrimination, prejudice, sensitivity, etc... there are far too many reasons for not taking decisive action to help children – and far too few examples of people doing what's right to protect them.

Using a real-world and unrelated analogy to illustrate this point: In 2011, an environmental engineering company out of Germany offered to sell its well-established inspection program concerning auto emission evaluation and controls to a developing nation. The head of the German company, an engineer himself, met with the head of the government (Prime Minister) responsible for environmental innovations and commerce. The PM agreed only to the offer if he was given a substantial commission 'on the spot.' The head of the German company made the statement, "This is the quality of air in your country we're talking about." The PM responded, "Do I look sick ... Nothing is wrong with my health." The deal did not go through and needless to say as of 2013 the developing country has one of the highest rates of air pollution in the world and has yet to sign the Kyoto Protocol.

When we destroy a child, we destroy our future. By refusing to see the connection between ourselves and others, we feed that destruction. The short-sighted immediate gratification response by the PM showed a perfect example of indifference and ignorance to a problem he/she will come to eventually suffer. Remember ... the 'same air we all breathe.' A few more dollars in his/her pocket will not make any difference to their lungs.

More work is needed to change and/or remove those in a position of power who lack the social responsibility to help those who cannot help themselves. They are destroying their own futures –no doubt – and they are destroying everyone's as well. The media can be a powerful tool when used for good. More propaganda should be focused educating the public in the truth: Children are born equal despite gender, culture, socioeconomic situation, and geographical location.

Change is difficult; however, the future of a family, country, and society cannot be given a chance to prosper unless we begin by protecting our children. If we do not, it is more than hope that is lost – it is and will be our humanity.

Are we honestly at the point – because we cannot protect our children and fix the problem of child [abuse] – that we need to stop having children until we can? A very radical thought indeed and difficult to comprehend; however, another concept more difficult to comprehend exists – that of a child suffering sexual abuse in a world where we have the power to prevent and intervene.

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Gregg Tyler Milligan is an internationally-known author and child abuse prevention advocate. He has written two books, *A Beautiful World*, detailing his childhood and the horrific suffering Milligan endured at the hands of his mother and strangers. Milligan later completed the continuation to *A Beautiful World*, describing his next eleven years. Both books are published under the same volume, titled *God Must be Sleeping*. Milligan is a member of the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Speakers Bureau and continues to spread his message of hope.

In his words, "Please remember, the reason we are here is to save one another – Break the cycle." More information can be found at [godmustbesleeping.com/](http://godmustbesleeping.com/).