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What is Child Sexual Abuse?

**Child Sexual Abuse
(CSA) is defined by
the World Health
Organization (WHO)
as:**

“The involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society.

Child sexual abuse is evidenced by this activity between a child and an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person”.

CSA is about genital penetration, inappropriate touching and fondling. Nonetheless, it must be acknowledged that child sexual abuse can also be committed without physical contact (so-called “non-contact abuse”).

Common examples of “non-contact sexual abuse” are **sexual harassment of children**, including verbal harassment or showing pornography to a child, deliberately exposing an adult’s genitals to a child, or performing sexual acts near a child.

With the surge of child sexual abuse occurring through the Internet or other ICT, it becomes increasingly **necessary** to pay attention to such non-contact forms of abuse – and the consequences they have for young victims.